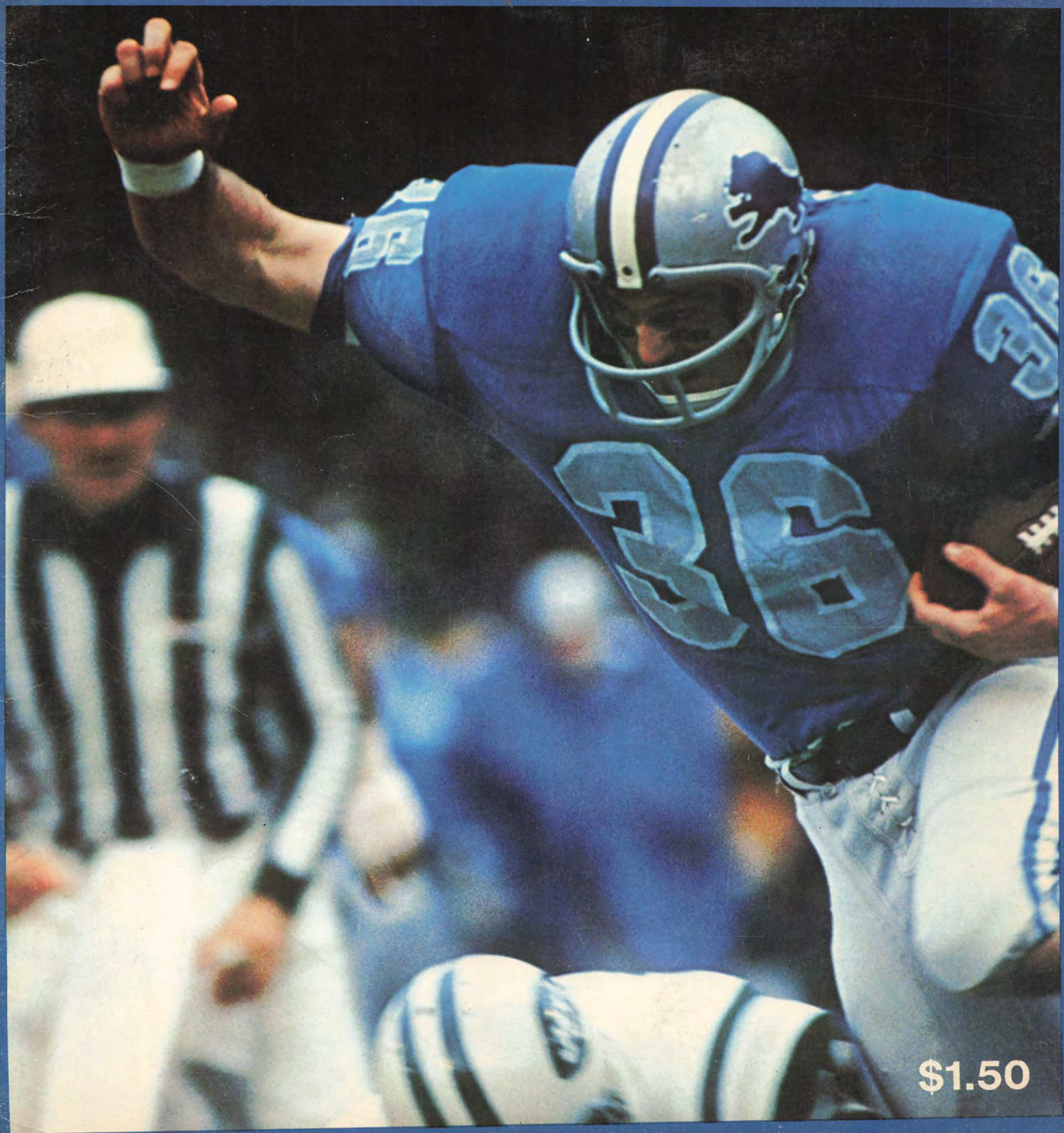
1973 SPORTS FOCUS FOOTBALL ISSUE

Detroit Lions



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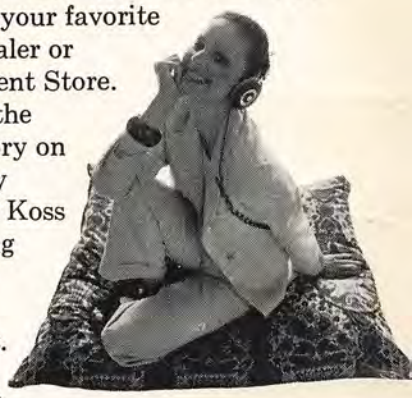

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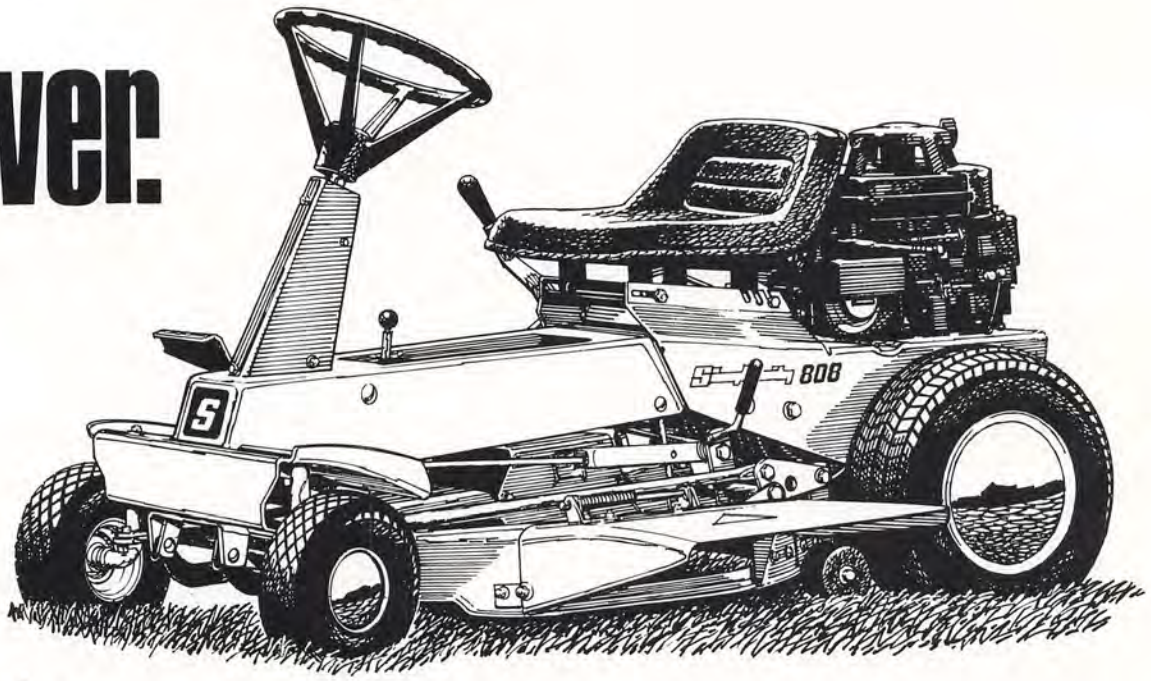

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Deeefense! Deeefense!

That's the chant heard often in NFL cities, especially in Pittsburgh, Miami, Washington or Green Bay where the defensive units provided much of the excitement for the fans.

On occasions it was heard in Detroit's Tiger Stadium also, but the fans did it more to heckle the Lions' defensive unit rather than applaud it.

The question is "Was it really all the fault of the defense for the Lions' problems last season?"

And for what problems there were on the defensive unit, "Was it completely the fault of the front four?"

The answer is NO to both questions. Owner William Clay Ford and general manager Russ Thomas made these points clear when Joe Schmidt resigned as head coach and his staff was released, leading to the hiring of Don McCafferty and an entire new staff.

"Our defensive unit earned double time," Ford said after the 33-7 rout at the hands of the Packers in Green Bay in the game which eliminated the Lions out of the division race.

"We had receivers open all afternoon and we couldn't hit them from six feet away," Ford further criticized after the 21-21 tie in Buffalo, adding that "with the receivers we have, as good as any in the league, we certainly haven't made good use of them this season."

In the final game against the LA Rams on the coast, the Lions finally put it together. The runners were running well, even though the starting array of backs was hurting; the receivers were catching more passes and long bombs in this one game than they did all year; and the defensive unit looked like a single unit, rather than separate divisions going their own way.

Ford's criticism may have shaken up the team and the coaching staff, but it was too late. The Lions, favored to win the Central Division, finished second for the third straight year.

It was the third straight year that the Lions could look back only to say "if" this had happened, or "if" that had not happened. The big "ifs" were: In 1970, when the Lions went to *(continued next page)*

73 LIONS PROSPECTUS

Dallas and lost 5-0 to the Cowboys in the playoff game toward the Super Bowl, everyone said, "if Bill Munson's last minute pass had been completed to Earl McCullouch instead of being tipped into the hands of Cowboy Charlie Waters, the Lions would have gone to the Super Bowl."

In 1971 after a mediocre 7-6-1 finish, Lions' owner Ford said, "In six of the seven games we didn't win, we were outscored by 23 points, that's only four points a game.

"This 'IF' the offense had scored one more touchdown a game or 'IF' the defense had yielded one less per game, we would have been in the playoffs."

In 1972, "IF" Larry Walton had caught that long bomb in the last second of the first game against Green Bay, the Lions may not have lost 24-23; or "IF" Errol Mann's field goal had not been blocked in Minnesota, or "IF" Ron Jessie had caught the long bomb on the last play of the 21-21 tie in Buffalo, the Lions could easily have been 11-3 and been in the playoffs.

McCafferty didn't get a contract for a five year plan, but he received two years. During the press conference naming him head coach, he avoided any "ifs" and very bluntly promised that the Lions would be back in the thick of the Central Division race this season.

Having hired an all new staff, including two former head coaches, Bob Hollway and Ed Khayat, McCafferty quickly outlined his plans for a new and varied offense, an early camp for free agents and rookies, and a tough training camp program.

Hollway, former head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals, who once helped mold the Minnesota defense as an assistant is handling the defensive backs; Khayat, ex-Eagles' head coach, is responsible for the much-maligned defensive line, and John Meyer, ex-Patriots' assistant is handling the linebackers.

The offensive staff includes Rick Forzano, former Navy head coach, handling the backs; Ray Berry, one time Baltimore great, handling the receivers; and Leon McLaughlin, formerly of the Rams, in charge of the offensive line.

There are no positions "locked up" as far as McCafferty is concerned as the players prepare for training camp at Cranbrook school in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., in July.

"The reason is obvious," said McCafferty, "there isn't one man on the staff, among the seven of us, who previously were with the Lions at any time.

"This is the year the Players must IMPRESS the coaches . . . and we will go with the best 40 men we can find."

McCafferty also promised, "Our

THE WINNING WAY - *There are some runners of such consummate skill that they do not depend on surprise for their advantage. They are going to get their yards, anyway, by quickness, power, speed, and instinct. Such a runner is Altie Taylor (above), as he eludes Dave Robinson of the Packers. Taylor contributed to the Lions offensive attack 658 yards rushing and 250 yards receiving to lead the team in both categories. Another leader is Errol Mann (right), who topped the scoring list with 98 points.*
(Below) Greg Landry and blockers show textbook passing form as Landry finds a passing lane through stretching Packers.

training camp this year will be the toughest, the most-competitive, that the Lions have experienced in a long, long time.

"I guarantee it."

The first task after the player draft for McCafferty and staff was to go over all of the game film of 1972 with a fine tooth comb.

"They were spending a lot of midnight oil going over every bit of film on every player," said general manager Russ Thomas. "I'm sure they will know who, when and where all of the problems were."

Of course the brunt of the criticism was shouldered by the defensive line, and in most cases unfairly.

Lions' fans once took pride in seeing some of the finest defensive units in pro football starting in the championship years of the 50's and carrying over with the original Fearsome Foursome from 1958 to 1963.

Many critics tried to pinpoint the decline of the Lions' defense with the release of Alex Karras prior to the 1971 season, but that was a fallacy because even in Karras' final three years, it had already dropped to mediocrity.

In 1970, the vaunted pass rush for which he was known, netted Karras one official sack of the quarterback for the entire season.

The other defensive tackle, Gerry Rush, who replaced Roger Brown, was beset with illnesses and ailments along with a weight problem to add to the deterioration of the line.

Veteran defensive end Larry Hand and others including some of the ex-assistant coaches didn't feel that all the blame should be laid to the line, which was being rebuilt with new faces at three positions.

The linebacking and secondary, which were getting older and slow afoot, obviously had to share more of the criticisms, but they didn't.

Thomas, the general manager, felt early in the 1972 season that young players such as safety Charlie Potts, linebacker Charlie Weaver, defensive lineman Herb Orvis, linebacker Ken Lee and cornerback Henry Stuckey should have been given a lot of work during the exhibition season.

Thomas admitted he was angry, but did not interfere, when the Lions lost Lee to the Buffalo Bills, who picked him up on the final waiver list; and when Stuckey was released, and was immediately picked up by Miami.

These are the points Thomas is able to elaborate on when accusations are made that he was interfering with the decisions of the coaching staff.

To continue their rebuilding of the defensive line, for the third straight year, the Lions made a defensive lineman their first choice in the draft.

Bob Bell was picked in 1971, Herb Orvis in 1972 and Ernest Price of Texas A&I in 1973.

But to infer again that it wasn't all defensive problems in 1972, the Lions took four running backs and a tight end among the first 10 choices, and only two defensive linemen among the 20 players picked.

Two linebackers and five defensive backs were the other defensive players chosen.

The Lions, who had seven knee operations, three shoulder operations and a broken wrist among the hospital cases last year, expect some of the taxi squad players and injured reserve list players to bolster the team along with the draft list which is considered their best in at least three years.

Orvis, the No. 1 choice from Colorado in 1972, who was a rookie at the age of 26 because of his service years in Germany before going to Colorado, is being touted as the star of the future.

The question is "At what position?"

He was used a few times at defensive end behind Jim Mitchell, and he finished the season starting at defensive tackle.

There is talk that Orvis, with his speed and power, could be Mike Lucci's successor at middle linebacker if the other young defensive linemen come through as hoped.

Wayne Walker has retired; Lucci has had two straight years plagued by injuries and Paul Naumoff was far from himself in 1972.

Among the candidates for linebacker spots besides Lucci, Naumoff and Weaver are the hospital or taxi squad cases, Ed Mooney, Rick Ogle, Adrian Young, Jim Teal and draftees Mike Hennigan of Tennessee Tech, Jim Laslavic of Penn State and John Moss of Pittsburgh.

Among the early defensive line candidates along with Hand and Mitchell at the ends are Bell, Larry Woods, Joe Schmiesing, Bob Tatarek, John Gordon, rookies Price and John Andrews of Morgan State at the tackles.

Ken Sanders, second choice in 1972 from Howard Payne, who spent a year on the cab squad to build up his present 225 pound frame, is regarded as a real sleeper and strong candidate at defensive end.

Thus Orvis stands in waiting. He is capable of many duties and should unexpected strength develop on the line, he might be a linebacker; and vice versa if a strong linebacking corp develops.

The selection of Levi Johnson from Texas A&I, the same school from whence Price was drafted, has been hailed by the Lions as possibly another "Lem Barney find."

The Lions, often among the leaders in the specialty departments, didn't

continued on page 10

You've got a friend in this town.

SO Standard Oil Division of Amoco Oil Company

1972 DETROIT LIONS

Front row, left to right: Greg Landry, Errol Mann, Bill Cappleman, Herman Weaver, Bill Munson, Lem Barney, Mel Farr, Earl McCullouch, Charlie Potts, Mike Weger, Mickey Zofko, Steve Owens, Bill Triplett, Nick Eddy.

Second row: Altie Taylor, Dick LeBeau, Rudy Redmond, Wayne Rasmussen, Larry Walton, Paul Naumoff, Adrian Young, Mike Lucci, Ed Flanagan, Wayne Walker, Charlie Weaver, Ed Mooney, Chuck Walton, Gordon Jolley.

Third row: Chuck Knox, Bill McPeak, John North, Dave Thompson, Bob Kowalkowski, Rocky Rasley, Frank Gallagher, Larry Woods, Bob Tatarek, Bob Bell, Larry Hand, Jim Yarbrough, Leeman Bennett, Dick Voris, Jim David, Joe Schmidt.

Fourth row: Roy 'Friday' Macklem, Charles 'Rip' Collins, Rocky Freitas, John Gordon, Herb Orvis, John Hilton, Ken Sanders, Jim Mitchell, Joe Schmiesing, Al Barnes, Craig Cotton, Charlie Sanders, Ron Jessie, Kent Falb, Gary Tuthill.

SKILLFUL RECEIVER - *Charlie Sanders makes more jumps per catch than any receiver in football but also more yards.*

show anything exceptional in returns of punts or kickoffs in 1972, and Johnson is figured to help these departments as well as develop into an outstanding defensive back.

Dick LeBeau has left his playing behind and is now an assistant with the Eagles and thus the Lions did put strong emphasis on the secondary in the draft with five backs.

The Lions' offense, second highest scoring team in the NFC, was not as impressive in the various statistical departments in 1972.

Steve Owens was hurting and missed the last two games after a below par season for him; Altie Taylor had numerous ailments and Mel Farr, continued his fragile career but with much less limelight in 1972.

The Lions actually ended the season with Nick Eddy, and old familiar name, Mickey Zofko and Bill Triplett, now retired, doing much of the ball carrying.

So, Leon Crosswhite of Oklahoma was the No. 2 choice in the draft with Dick Jauron of Yale, Jim Hooks of Central State (Oklahoma) and John Bledsoe of Ohio State close behind in the selections.

With a young but strong offensive line returning, with the running game apparently shored up by the draft and the receivers led by Charlie Sanders, Larry Walton and Ron Jessie given depth in the draft, it all points to the quarterback situation, as to where it's been and what's ahead.

Coach McCafferty is planning a complete change in the offensive system, washing out the old terminology completely.

"I like a varied offense with a lot of different sets. There is a definite place in pro football for the element of surprise. It will take time and we can't throw a big batch of new formations at them all at once and expect them to digest them."

That's why he gave warning in advance of the tough camp due this summer.

McCafferty, long an advocate of the pocket quarterback with John Unitas and Earl Morrall at Baltimore, will have that style in Bill Munson.

But what of Greg Landry?

Landry can offer that element of surprise McCafferty wants, but how much he will change Landry's style of quarterbacking with his options and running, remains to be seen.

This is what should make the Lions of 1973 a most interesting ball club; what McCafferty does with the diversity of styles of the quarterbacks and how some of the older faces fit into his newly styled offense and defense. ■

McCafferty Gives Defense Massive Transfusion

New Doctor New Medicine

By Jack Saylor of The Detroit Free Press

Don McCafferty had been coach of the Detroit Lions for only a few minutes, but he already had his finger on the crux of the situation he was entering.

The big Irishman explained that he had seen the Lions only twice in two years (for exhibition games against his Colts) and maybe a couple other times on TV.

"But I know some of the people," he smiled wryly, "and I know we need help on defense."

Hooooeee . . . do "we" ever.

It was a breakdown and an aging process on defense that led to the Lions' tumble from a 1970 playoff berth to the two frustrating seasons of '71 and '72 that culminated in Joe Schmidt's resignation.

What McCafferty inherits, defensively, is a team that has end play, good cornerbacking and virtually little else.

Jim Mitchell, at one end, had a strong year and eight-year vet Larry Hand, at the other, deserved All-Pro consideration but didn't get it.

Inside, however, opponents ran the Lions ragged. It was accentuated by the mediocre linebacking.) At cornerback, Lem Barney returned to all-pro status and newcomer Rudy Redmond proved a fine running mate. The safety positions were in a state of turmoil all year causing the Lions to miss more tackles than Ford made cars.

"It's very simple," coach Schmidt sighed after the disappointing season ended. "We don't have enough players. We need a couple of defensive linemen, a couple linebackers and a couple people in the secondary.

"I don't think we need a wholesale shakeup. I think the addition of three, four or maybe five players would do it."

Schmidt, of course, won't be on hand to supervise the alterations, but the problems remain the same for McCafferty.

Wayne Walker retired after 15 years

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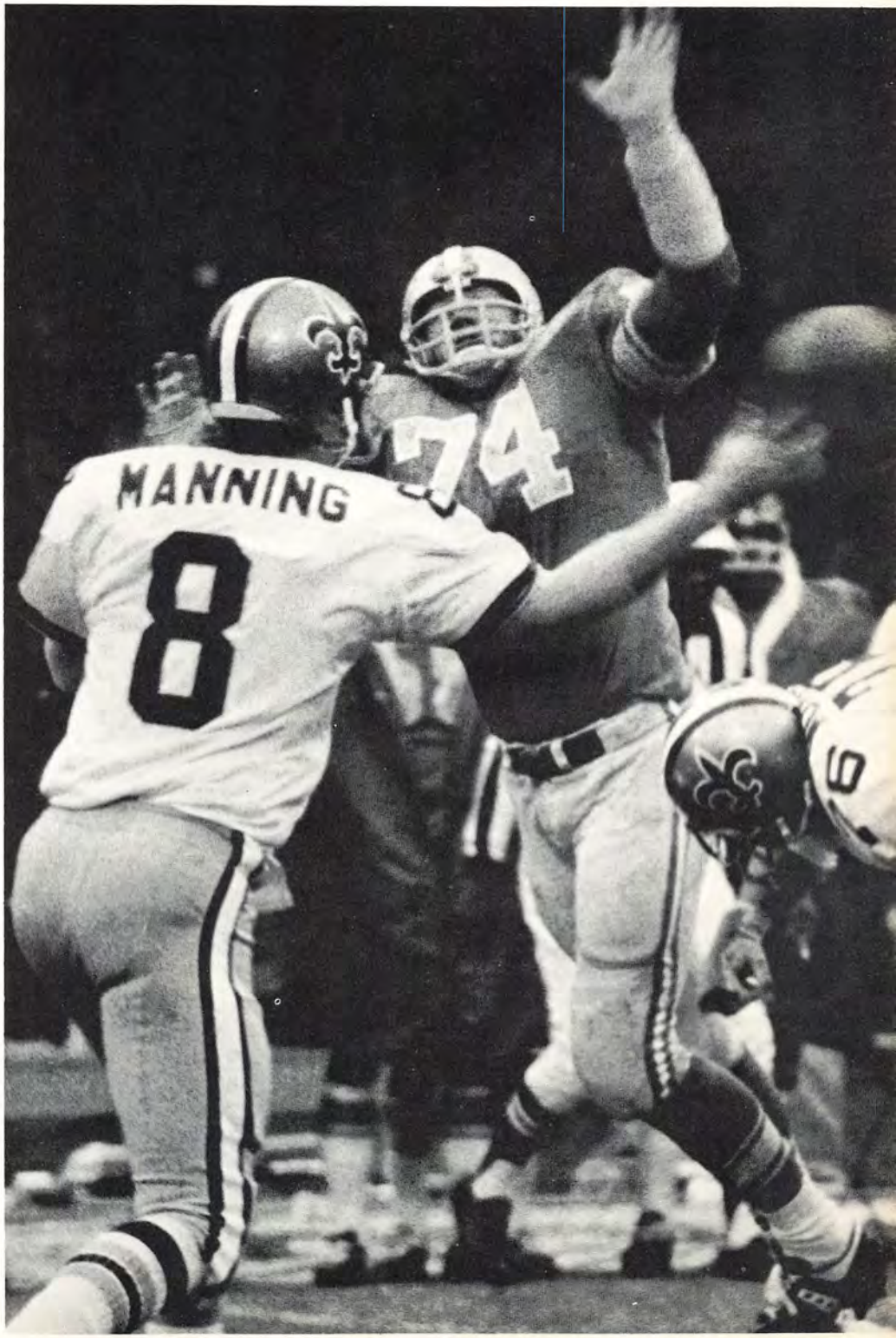


THE HAND OF A LION — *Larry Hand terrorizes Saints' quarterback Archie Manning. Due to Hand's consistent pass rush the Lions were able to sack the quarterback 21 times in 1972.*

in residence as the right linebacker and Dick LeBeau, only one year shy of that total, called it quits, too.

He had a long and outstanding career as a cornerback before a knee injury at the end of 1971. Schmidt then switched him to safety.

However before the season was over, LeBeau had lost the job to Wayne Rasmussen, an erstwhile sub, who in turn was injured. Schmidt bypassed a return to LeBeau and also snubbed rookie Charlie Potts to take Al Randolph off the Minnesota Vikings' taxi squad to finish the season.

At the other safety, Mike Weger endured some personal problems and a sub-par season followed a contract hassle early in the year. His season-ending performance against the Rams was his best, yet safety will remain the widest open position come training camp.

Randolph had signed a 1973 Viking contract and thus will revert to Bud Grant's property. But Weger returns, as does Rasmussen whose ace-in-the-hole is that kicker, Errol Mann, who likes Rassie around to do the holding.

Potts may get more of a tumble from the new coaching staff and another candidate is Tom Kutschinski, a late-round 1971 draft choice who hasn't been able to walk out of the first training camp scrimmage for two straight years because of knee injuries.

Of course, there's the 1973 draft, in which the Lions had eight choices in the first four rounds.

Overall, the Lions tapped five defensive backs which would indicate McCafferty will throw the secondary jobs up for grabs. Three of the rookies are cornerbacks, but should one pop up with starting qualifications, the versatile Redmond could switch to safety where he saw service with Atlanta two years ago.

The first-year player with the best chance of pulling off a starting caper (like Barney in 1967) is Levi Johnson, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound ballhawk from Texas A&I.

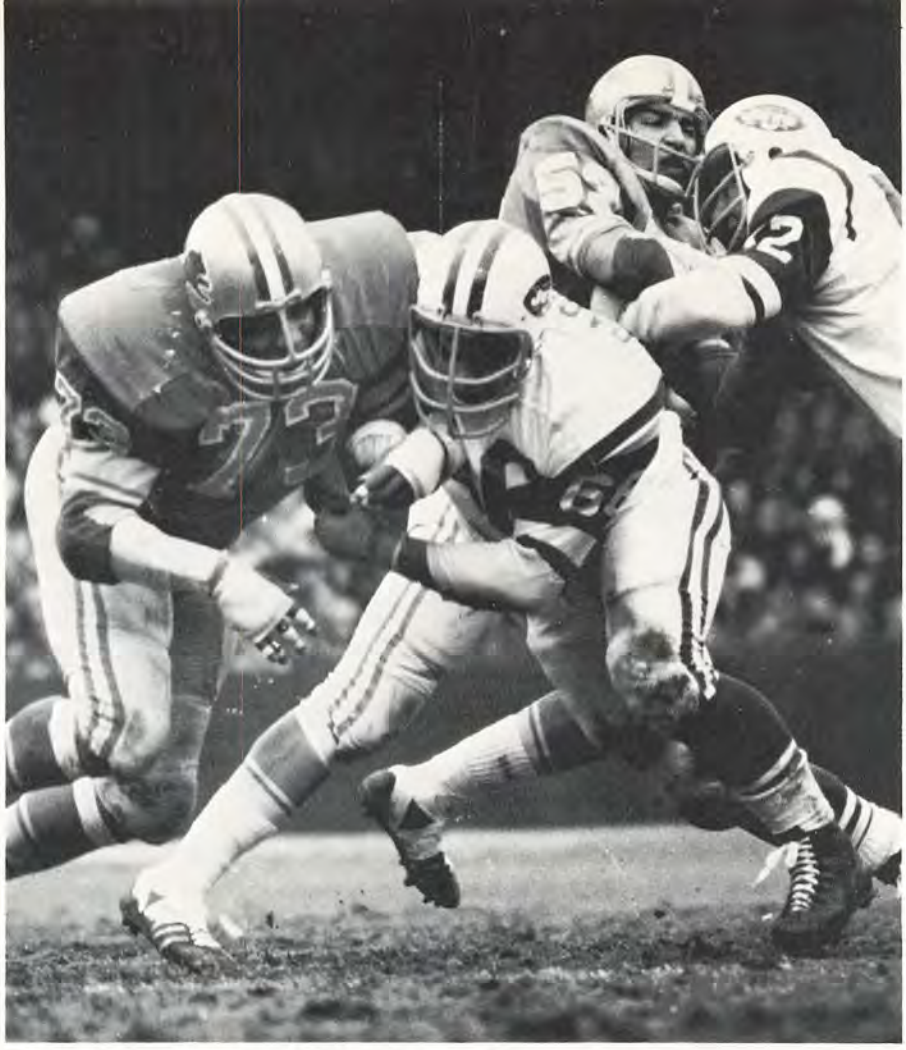
The others are Prentice McCray of Arizona State; Ira Dean of Baylor; Ray Bonner, a speed merchant from Middle Tennessee; and Don Hansen of Brigham Young.

The Lions' troubles begin farther up front than the secondary, however.

"We self destructed," said William Clay Ford, scion of the famed auto-making family and owner of the Lions.

The outspoken Ford didn't absolve the Lion offense ("Our game plans were run like the state lottery," he quipped), but he admitted that defense was the big headache.

"We knew all along we had gaps in the defensive unit. We didn't get enough out of the pre-season," he said. "I'm not blaming it all on the front



A VIOLENT WORLD - *The Detroit Lions play defense with the approximate impenetrability of a tropical forest — everywhere you turn they've got something in your way. (Below) Larry Hand entangles the unexpectant Don Horn while Jim Mitchell awaits to engulf the trapped victim. (Above) An aligning Mike Lucci and Bob Bell performed sporadically due to injuries throughout the season. Their inability to play healthy opened a hole to daylight for many a running back. (Above right) Upsets and constant pressure by the Lions' fine cornerbacks saved Detroit when under pressure. Here Lem Barney and Mike Weger combine to bulldog John Brockington of the Green Bay Packers. The addition of Larry Woods (right) has helped to close the sagging middle. The violence of his forearm crunch can be seen by the protection used on his only weapons.*

four — I'm equally critical of the linebackers and secondary."

The problem with the front four was at tackle — lack of an inside pass rush. Dick Evey was shipped out and Joe Schmiesing, a veteran plucked off the Cardinal roster, suffered an injury, leaving it all to younger players.

Bob Bell, the team's No. 1 draft choice in 1971, proved disappointing and Herb Orvis, the top pick in '72, was slowed by (a) a cracked ankle bone at the start; (b) a switch from his normal end position to tackle, and (c) a broken hand in mid-season.

The ankle was a carryover from his senior year at Colorado and led Orvis to be a cause celebre at the College All-Star game. The Lions, through a Chicago physician, managed to get him sidelined for the charity game which resulted in a swift rise in the temperature of All-Star coach Bob Devaney.

Anyway, Hurryin Herb got in enough action before incurring the broken hand to show he's going to be a stalwart on the Detroit defense — whether it be as a tackle or at linebacker.

Some feel his incredible pursuit for a 240-pounder, and the intensity with which he plays, makes him an ideal linebacking candidate.

"Orvis will make a great linebacker," assessed former defensive coach Jim David. "But we needed more help at tackle. Herb's going to be a great player."

Orvis' future will be determined in part by the progress of '73 No. 1 draft choice Ernie Price of Texas A&I. He's rated a super prospect, but then, so was Bell, so time will tell.

The other tackle candidates, barring an off-season trade, are Schmiesing; Larry Woods, who was a first stringer as a virtual rookie; Bell; John Gordon; and, of course, Orvis.

The lack of an adequate pass rush shows up in the Detroit statistics.

The Lions recorded only 21 quarterback dumps all year, third worst in the entire NFL. Even with a powerful offensive line of its own, Detroit permitted its passer to be reached 26 times. Only Hand, who frequently drew double teaming, provided a constant threat.

Armed with this assistance — and utilizing the two wide sides of the field, provided by the rules change, Lion opponents ran wild.

Dick Voris, the embattled ex-defensive line coach, explained early in the exhibition season that the abundance of ground gains against the Lions was because he was trying to "build a pass rush" and that when the real games started "anyone could stop the rush."

It turned out nobody in the NFL could, much less the Lions. Detroit yielded an average of 157 yards per game on the ground and 300 overall.

Things hit a peak — if you could call it that — on Thanksgiving Day when two New York Jet backs, Cliff McClain (121) and John Riggins (105) both surpassed the century mark.

"Mostly we missed tackles," said a chagrined Lucci.

Ironically, the Lions managed to win that game and the concensus is that if they are to do so with any regularity in '73, the Lion linebacking will have to improve measurably.

Lucci underwent knee surgery before the '72 season, then suffered a neck injury in the '72 opener which hampered him all season. He added a broken hand later, not to mention severe burns on the other hand. In general, he was in debilitated condition all year.

Paul Naumoff, the left linebacker, also came off knee surgery for the '72 campaign and never hit his Pro Bowl stride of 1970. Wayne Walker, although playing on 35-year-old legs, gave the Lions their best linebacking — and he has hung up the cleats.

Walker's replacement is USC ace Charlie Weaver, a swift, young man who plays with reckless abandon and hopefully has learned the subtleties of linebacking in two years as a back-up man. He could be a big star.

There's to be a dogfight for roster positions among Ed Mooney, Rick Ogle and Jim Teal (all returning from injuries), plus veteran Adrian Young and rookies Jim Laslavic of Penn State, Mike Hennigan of Tennessee Tech and John Moss of Pitt.

The Lions have problems, but they're not insurmountable. After all, they beat both the Dolphins (31-23) and the Redskins (23-10) — and even if it was in exhibition games, who else can make that statement? ■

Things Are Bad All Over

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID NEVER A BRIDE

By Jack Saylor of The Detroit Free Press

You're a Detroit Lion fan and you've endured 15 seasons in which your heroes have gone without a title?

Your team has been runnerup in the NFC's Central Division for four straight years — always a bridesmaid, never a bride, eh?

Even in its only playoff moment, 1970, your team slipped in as the second-place "wild card" to suffer that embarrassing 5-0 defeat at Dallas.

So 15 years is a long time, right? Well, cheer up, kiddies, it could be worse. You could live in Philadelphia, perish the thought. Eagle fans have had one title to rave about in 24 years.

Or how about St. Louis? Since Jimmy Conzelman brought home the NFL bacon in 1947 and an Eastern Conference title in '48, the Cardinals have gone through two cities, 10 coaches and untold players without a title — another 24-year stretch.

How about Washington? Until George Allen "Pied Piped" the Geritol Gang to the NFC title last December, the Skins hadn't even won a free ticket to the Tuesday night bingo since 1945.

Or Pittsburgh, maybe? Where have the Steelers been in the generations before Franco Harris and Mean Joe Greene came along? Until winning the AFC Central last fall, Dan Rooney's charges looked more like they belonged to Mickey Rooney. It wasn't even until 1942 that Pittsburgh had a team with a record better than .500.

There was no title, not even in the wartime 1943 campaign when the Steelers and Eagles joined forces. A real pair of losers.

The '72 Redskins? Everyone knows they weren't really Redskins — They were really Rams, Jets, Saints and all the other culls George Allen could grab before they hit Social Security age.

Swing back, if you will, to the early '40's, . . . now those were some real Redskins.

Starting from the legendary 73-0 rout by the Bears in 1940, coach Ray Flaherty put together a title team in '42 that avenged that dark day by beating the Bears, 14-6

Those were the Redskins of Sammy Baugh, Dick Todd, Wayne Millner, Wilbur Moore, Steve Bagarus and Andy Farkas.

In '45, Coach Dud DeGroot took over pretty much the same team (minus Farkas) and won the East with an 8-2 record. The Skins lost to the Rams at Cleveland (yes, Virginia, they lived in Cleveland then) on a day so cold the musical instruments froze, sidelining the great Redskin band.

The Rams then sidelined the football portion of the Washington organization, 15-4, when a Baugh pass from the end zone hit the goal post for a safety. It wasn't until 27 years later that Washington could celebrate as much as a division title.

The Steelers tied with the Eagles for the Eastern Division bauble in 1947, but alas lost the playoff to Philadelphia, 21-0.

Over the years players like Jackie Butler, Lynn Chandnois, Chuck Cherundolo, Elbie Nickel, Bill Dudley, Whizzer White, Bobby Layne . . . even Johnny Blood graced Steeler lineups, but titles averted such coaches as Jock Sutherland, John Michelosen, Buddy Parker, Greasy Neale . . . hell, even Bert Bell (1941).

It was 39 years from their founding to their first division championship last season.

There was a day when the Cardinals used to fly on the other side of town from the Bears in Chicago.

Conzelman brought them an NFL title in 1947 on a 28-21 victory over the Eagles with the "Dream Backfield" of Paul Christman, Charlie Trippi, Elmer Angsman and Pat Harder" in featured roles along with stars like center Vince Banonis, ends Pop Ivy and Mal Kutner, guard Buster Ramsey, Marshall Goldberg and others.

The next year the Cards (11-1 on the season) lost the title to the Eagles, 7-0, in a Philadelphia snowbowl game as Philly's Steve Van Buren scored following a fourth-period fumble recovery by Frank (Bucko) Kilroy.

After that the Cards straggled to records of 6-5, 5-7, 3-9, 4-8, 1-10, 2-10, 4-7-1, 3-9, 2-9, and 2-10. The smell began to rival the South Side Stockyards so the Bidwills decided to air 'em out in St. Looey, Louie, in 1960. No titles have been forthcoming.

Since that moment of revelry against the Cards in 1948, the Eagles have reached the pinnacle only once . . . that was in 1960 when Philadelphia went 10-2 in the East, then beat Green Bay, 17-13, for the NFL crown.

The Birds wiped out a 13-10 deficit in the final quarter as rookie Ted Dean returned a kickoff to the Packer 39, then scored from the five. Chuck Bednarik sealed it by stopping Jimmy Taylor at the Eagles' 10-yard line as the gun sounded.

In addition to Bednarik, the last of

The cellar dwelling Bears cannot stop the summit leap of Steve Owens.

STICKY FINGERS - *Charlie Sanders catches a football with all the grace of a man falling from a seventh-story window. He catches enough however, to be placed on the Pro Bowl roster every year. Here he takes a pass in front of Buffalo defenders, who completed a season of 4-9-1.*

the two-way players, coach Buck Shaw also had talents like Max Baughn, Tom Brookshier, Timmy Brown, Tommy McDonald, Clarence Peaks, Pete Retzlaff and Bobby Walston, plus Norman Van Brocklin and his quarterbacking understudy, Christian Adolph (Sonny) Jurgensen III.

Since then, the titles have not been for the Birds.

There was also only one for the Bears since 1956 . . . a string of one-for-16.

The "one" was in 1963 when George Halas did it with mirrors — and a helluva defense. The Bears went 11-1-2 in the West, then intercepted Y.A. Tittle five times to score a 14-10 title victory over the Giants in 10-degree weather at Yankee Stadium.

They were the Bears of Mike Ditka, Billy Wade, Willie Galimore, Bennie McRae, Johnny Morris, Richie Petitbon and Rosie Taylor . . . and Ed O'Bradovich, whose interception set up the winning touchdown.

Nor should Lion fans become overly envious of the San Francisco 49ers. Sure, they've won three straight NFC Western Divisions, but they're real Johnny-come-Brodies in the championship realm.

They knocked on the door in 1957 when they tied the Lions in the West, but lost a memorable 31-27 playoff by blowing a big lead.

So if you include four years of chasing the Cleveland Browns in the late All-America Conference, the 49ers went 24 years empty handed before winning a division title in 1970.

The mention of 1957 brings the tale full circle . . . to the Lions' last title: when Buddy Parker abruptly resigned before the start of the season saying, "this team can't win", only to have George Wilson prove otherwise.

An 8-4 record tied San Francisco and a second-half rally stunned the 49ers in the playoff. The rest was easy — a 59-14 rout of Cleveland with Tobin Rote in the saddle for the injured Bobby Layne.

It was the Lions of Layne and Rote, Cassady and Creekmur, David and Dibble, Gedman and Gordy, Lary and Lowe, McCord and Martin, Schmidt and Sewell . . . Jim Doran, Frank Gatski, John Henry Johnson, Gil Mains, Bob Miller, Doc Middleton . . . stars from Ane to Zatkoff.

That wonderful year, 1957, is a long time past, but cheer up, Lion fans. They've had things just as dry elsewhere. ■

The Underrated Larry Hand

By Bruno Kearns of The Oakland County Press

There was a day back on the farm in New Jersey when Larry Hand was allowed to take part in football practice on his high school team, only if he completed his chores and his wood chopping.

Today, the eight year veteran defensive end of the Detroit Lions not only plays every minute of a game when the team is on defense, but works out a minimum of three times a week, every week, during the off-season to stay in shape for each ensuing season.

But even though he works as hard as he does, and in fact has been the Lions' best defensive lineman for at least the last four years, very little comes his way in getting attention on the All-Pro teams or the pro bowl teams.

There's been more written about his being "the most underrated defensive end in pro football" than anything said about him in all 14 games of a regular season.

After the 1972 season, his teammates finally bestowed upon him an honor he could very well have received long before. They picked him as the team's Most Valuable player on defense.

When defensive line coach Dick Voris left the Lions amid the coaching staff changes after the 1972 season, he said "Hand is non-coachable."

He didn't mean Hand was hard to handle. He meant there was nothing a coach could teach Hand that he already didn't know.

"In my 30 years of coaching," said Voris, "Charlie Kreuger of the 49ers is the best defensive tackle I have ever coached and Larry Hand is the best defensive end.

"What makes Hand one of the top defensive ends in pro football, is not only his physical ability but his football mind," added Voris, "he is one of the smartest defensive players in the league today."

Then when the league honor teams are picked, why is Hand always ignored?

"Because he is not selfish enough," Voris answered. "He doesn't go out there to impress anyone with statistics on how many times he sacks the quarterback as many of the so-called star defensive ends do.

"He plays a good consistent game against the run or pass, and for overall performance I'd stack Hand up against any defensive end in pro football," Voris added.

Hand, who is regarded as somewhat of a taciturn individual, says he tries not to let the lack of recognition affect his play on the field, but admits that sometimes he wonders what a player has to do to get the attention he deserves.

The Lions are certainly aware of Hand's value to the team. They can't deny that he has been the most consistent player on the defensive unit, even though he has never received any All-Pro or pro bowl honors with which to argue his case.

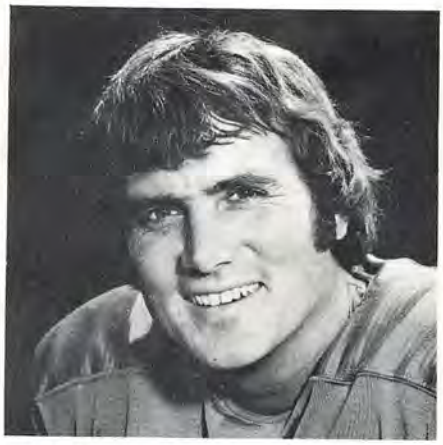
If pro quarterbacks could objectively evaluate the defensive ends who harass them the most, and without any cheap shot tactics, they would have to rate Hand pretty high.

But then, a player very seldom, if ever, wins his contract demands on affidavits from opposing players.

Thus, Hand might again have to resign himself to playing the 1973 season hopefully with a new and bigger contract with the Lions, but the same old prospect of being called, "the most underrated defensive end in pro football." ■

SPORTS FOCUS PLAYER PROFILES

Quarterbacks



BILL CAPPLEMAN FLORIDA STATE

No. 17 -- Bill Cappleman, QB, 6-3, 210 -- has been waiting for his chance for three years since a fabulous career at Florida State. Picked by the Vikings as a No. 2 choice, he went to the Eagles when Norm Snead went to Minnesota, but after only a month in Philly, the Lions got him in a deal and he was with his third team in three months in 1971. Also a drop back quarterback with a long range arm, Cappleman is no stranger to new coach Don McCafferty who helped coach in the Senior Bowl. Ex-Lion aide Bill McPeak once said Cappleman was one of the most intelligent quarterbacks he had known.

GREG LANDRY MASSACHUSETTS

No. 11 -- Greg Landry, QB, 6-4, 210 -- may have had his "sophomore jinx" in his fifth season with the Lions in 1972, but the disappointing 8-5-1 record can't all be attributed to his statistics. For most of the season his passing completion average was below .500, but he did finish with a 50.0 average, passed for 18 TD's and ran for nine more. His 524 yards rushing was second best on the team, which would indicate where some of the Lions had their problems, that is injuries to key players like Steve Owens and Charlie Sanders. With a newly styled offense under new head coach Don McCafferty. Landry may get some new wrinkles to his own style from John Unitas' former coach.

BILL MUNSON UTAH STATE

No. 19 -- Bill Munson, QB, 6-2, 205 -- has been the big name in Lions' trade talks since his drop-back style of quarterbacking lost out to Greg Landry's scrambling in 1969, and showing limited appearances in only four games. With a new head coach who has long advocated pocket stylists such as John Unitas and Earl Morrall, Munson could be back into strong contention for the starting job. Unless, of course, the Lions get an offer for a key defensive player which they couldn't afford to refuse. New coach Don McCafferty well remembers Munson's ability, because it was against Baltimore in 1968 that he had his biggest day as a Lion with 26 of 37 passes for 262 yards.

Receivers

RON JESSIE KANSAS

No. 89 -- Ron Jessie, WR, 6-0, 180 -- gained most of his attention as a kick return specialist after coming to the Lions in 1971 from Dallas and last year took over a regular job along with Larry Walton as wide receiver. He had a 102 yard kickoff return and two TD's in 1971, and last season averaged 24.3 in 23 returns with a 62 yarder which fell short of the goal line. Jessie caught 24 passes like Walton and had the long bomb of the season, an 82 yarder among his four TD's. With all time great Jimmy Orr as coach of the Lions' receivers, he should play a big part in the Lions' aerial attack.

EARL McCULLOUCH SO. CALIF.

No. 25-Earl McCullouch, WR, 5-11, 170-has the speed, as is obvious, from his great track records at USC, and his ability to pull away from pass defenders, but there has been question about his ability to run pass patterns. His statistics showed decline from his career high of 40 caught in 1968, put possibly with McCafferty's new offensive styles, he may be part of any bomb plans which might be installed to utilize his speed.

CHARLIE SANDERS MINNESOTA

No. 88 -- Charlie Sanders, TE, 6-4, 230 -- went through more frustrations in 1972 than at anytime in his four super previous years with the Lions. A shoulder separation in the exhibition game with Baltimore, Sept. 1 kept him out until the 7th game with Dallas in regular season, but he still was the No. 2 pass receiver on the team with 27. An all-pro tight end for 3 years with a talent for acrobatic receptions, he had his worst moment in pro football when in the key game with the Vikings, the Lions needed to keep control to assure themselves of a victory. In the final minute, Sanders caught a first down pass, but fumbled when hit.

Running backs

LARRY WALTON ARIZONA STATE

No. 49 -- Larry Walton, WR, 6-0, 180 -- is readily regarded as the Lions' top wide receiver even though his 1972 output with 24 passes caught were six less than either of his two previous seasons. Another member of the Lions who had pre-season surgery, Walton sat out the exhibition season, but still came back to make some of the spectacular catches he made so often in 1970 and 1971. With his moves and speed, the Lions often have employed him on reverse running plays on many occasions, showing a 3.8 rushing average. The new style offense of Coach McCafferty could make Walton the key bomb play target.

MEL FARR UCLA

No. 24 -- Mel Farr, RB, 6-2, 210 -- has to be the story of disappointment among the Lions for the past two seasons after all of the glamor which accompanied him from UCLA in 1967 through 1970. He has not had a complete season with the Lions after being plagued each year with injuries. Rookie of the year in 1967, he also earned many honors from Lions' co-captain to team MVP and to pro bowl selection. Had 22 attempts only in 1971 and 62 carries last year for a 3.5 average, along with 10 pass receptions.

STEVE OWENS OKLAHOMA

No. 36 -- Steve Owens, RB, 6-2, 215 -- proved all the scouts wrong when 16 teams passed him by in the draft and the Lions grabbed him as their No. 1 choice. Never injured in college, an early shoulder injury kept him out until the final six games of the 1970 season. In 1971 he became the first Lion runner ever to crack 1,000 yards in one season with 1,035. Last year that total was cut in half with 519 yards and only 4 touchdowns and 15 passes caught as compared to 8 TD's and 32 passes in 1971. Another injury forced the popular and hard working Sooner to sit out the final two games of the season on the injured list.

Offensive line

ALTIE TAYLOR UTAH STATE

No. 42 -- Altie Taylor, RB, 5-10, 200 -- led all Lions' runners with 658 yards and also the pass receivers with 29 caught. Like Steve Owens and Charlie Sanders, he had some injuries which hampered the Lions' high powered scoring machine. Taylor still finished with a 4.3 average, his second best season in four years as a Lion, which also included a 38 yard touchdown run, his longest goal line dash. One of his biggest plays in 1972 was a finger tip catch of a pass against Atlanta on fourth down to help set up the Lions' winning TD in the 26 - 23 victory.

MICKEY ZOFKO AUBURN

No. 34 -- Mickey Zofko, RB, 6-3, 200 -- is the Lions' utility man. Most of his duties have been on the specialty teams since joining the Lions as No. 9 choice in 1971 from Auburn. A rugged tackler and the "wedge breaker" against opposing team kick returns. Zofko was given kickoff return duties for the first time and finished with a 23.7 average. He also carried the ball from scrimmage for the first time and showed 28 yards in seven carries for a 4.0 average. Zofko has one point scored in his pro career and that came after a bad snap which Greg Landry picked up and passed to Zofko for the conversion. With his desire he is regarded as the key specialty team player.

ED FLANAGAN PURDUE

No. 54 -- Ed Flanagan, C, 6-3, 245 -- at the age of 30 is the senior citizen of the offensive line in the way of service since he started in his first game as a rookie in 1965. He had that underrated tag for several seasons before three pro-bowl appearances and his All-Pro selection in 1970. Flanagan has been offensive captain and the team's player representative. He played much of 1971 with a back injury which called for surgery prior to last season and again came back to anchor the Lions' outstanding offensive line. There were pre-season rumors of his being traded for defensive help, but that was denied by the Lions.

ROCKNE FREITAS OREGON STATE

No. 76 -- Rockne Freitas, OT, 6-6, 270 -- finally received the recognition as one of football's better offensive tackles when he was picked to the pro bowl and the All-Pro team last year. But a death in the family prevented him from playing in the post-season classic. One of the biggest and most powerful players in the game, Freitas was a big steal in a draft choice trade with the Steelers who picked him third in 1967, and after a taxi-squad season, he has started every game since 1968. Former offensive line coach Chuck Knox, now head coach of the Rams, maintained that Freitas is sure to be football's No. 1 offensive tackle.

FRANK GALLAGHER N. CAROLINA

No. 68 -- Frank Gallagher, G, 6-2, 245 -- is another unsung hero of the Lions' offensive line who earned his starting laurels, lost them after some injuries, but fought back to win starting assignments. He was signed by the Lions as a free agent in 1967 after a year in the Continental League, and has since shown the quickness in leading the way in pull out running plays. He had surgery prior to the 1972 season and after spending much of the early season on the specialty teams, came back for regular duties when other injuries hit the offensive line.

BOB KOWALKOWSKI VIRGINIA

No. 66 -- Bob Kowalkowski, G, 6-3, 240 -- earned his starting role last year after several seasons of frustration, injury and sheer desire and determination to win his position. A fine blocker with great competitive spirit, "Kowal" built up a powerful upper body with weights after having leg surgery in two straight seasons. The leg injuries restricted much of his playing time to specialty teams. In 1972, however, he not only started in every game, but also found himself starting at tackle in the final game when tackle injuries forced him to move to the position. He could be one of the key figures in the tough Lions' offensive line in 1973.

Defensive line

CHUCK WALTON IOWA STATE

No. 63 -- Chuck Walton, G, 6-3, 250 -- almost had his football career ended when in the midst of an outstanding season in 1972, sustained an eye injury batting Bob Lilly in the Dallas game, in mid-season. He returned in the final two weeks of the season, had a fine game in the finale against the Rams and is expected back this season to play a key role in the line. At 32, he is the oldest player on the line after being a No. 3 choice in 1963, but playing four season in Canada before returning in 1967. A well built player, Walton doesn't appear to carry 250 pounds on his frame.

JIM YARBROUGH FLORIDA

No. 75 -- Jim Yarbrough, OT, 6-5, 265 -- made the transition from tight end at Florida to offensive tackle in the NFL in great fashion. He faced many great defensive ends early in his career and is now ready to take his spot among the best in his third starting year at the position. Yarbrough and Rockne Freitas form the "Tropical Pineapple" tackles, both coming from the warm weather states of Florida and Hawaii. Of course together they must be the two largest tackles on the same team. Jim works hard at pass blocking and is determined to make this his strong point.

BOB BELL CINCINNATI

No. 73 -- Bob Bell, DT, 6-4, 255 -- started five games as a rookie after being the No. 1 choice in 1971, making an auspicious debut with a 25 yard fumble return against Green Bay. After two seasons of grooming, the Lions are counting on him this season to do what was the original prospectus for him, that of developing into a pass rusher, with the speed which he has been gifted. He has built up his strength in the upper torso to help his pass rush. Bob still has some learning ahead especially in knowing when the trap is on.

LARRY HAND APPALACHIAN ST

No. 74 -- Larry Hand, DE, 6-4, 250, is aggressive, tough, strong, quick and intelligent. So what else is there for a top flight pro? Is the mainstay of the Lions' young defensive line which last year had players with 1 - 2 - 3 years experience to go with his 8 years. Picked by his teammates as most valuable on defense, Hand has long been regarded as the most underrated of all Lions. When opposing teams have to start worrying about the others on the front four they won't be able to keep double teaming him and he may receive the All-Pro recognition he has long deserved. He has not missed a game since sitting out the 1968 season because of knee surgery.

JIM MITCHELL VIRGINIA STATE

No. 83 -- Jim Mitchell, DE, 6-3, 245 -- came back from a poor sophomore in 1971 when hampered by a leg injury and showed he was ready to permanently take over the other defensive end spot across from Larry Hand. He has good speed and great pursuit and strangely had to harness some of that pursuit to do more with his pass rush. This is his fourth season and he is looking for it to be his best. He is one of the many No. 3 draft choices which have come through for the Lions.

LARRY WOODS TENNESSEE STATE

No. 70 -- Larry Woods, DT, 6-6, 260 -- had to be called the big surprise of the 1972 training camp and exhibition season earning him a starting assignment on several occasions. He spent his rookie year on the taxi squad and was really a rookie in experience last year. With excellent range with his height, a good rush and lateral movement and a good attitude he might be an added surprise in in 1973. He suffered a broken hand and was out in the final two games last season, but has been working on a strength program to build his upper body in the off-season.

Linebackers

MIKE LUCCI TENNESSEE

No. 53 -- Mike Lucci, LB, 6-2, 230 -- played virtually every game taped from head to toe in 1972 after several great seasons in which he competed in the premier division of middle linebackers with Dick Butkus of Chicago and Ray Nitschke of Green Bay. Involved in one of the biggest deals the Lions ever made when they obtained him in 1965 from Cleveland through New York, Lucci has often played over many injuries which as captain of the defensive unit was an example of his determination to spark team unit. His two intereceptions last season gives him 17 for his 8 years with the Lions.

ED MOONEY TEXAS TECH

No. 62 -- Ed Mooney, LB, 6-2, 225 -- is another member of the Lions' suicide squads, like Mickey Zofko and Rocky Rasley. He suffered a shoulder separation in the same game against Baltimore as did Charlie Sanders in exhibition, and he did not get back for the rest of 1972. His hard nosed tackling has made him invaluable as a reserve linebacker and on the specialty teams since the Lions picked him up as No. 4 in the 1968 draft. He has played over many injuries but was unable to get back on the roster last year and the Lions feared they would lose him.

PAUL NAUMOFF TENNESSEE

No. 50 -- Paul Naumoff, LB, 6-1, 215 -- has moved up the seniority list among Lions' linebackers with the retirement of Wayne Walker. With good speed and an aggressive attitude. Naumoff moved in as a starter in his last two games of rookie season and has been at the left corner ever since. Another player who has been among the Lions' good No. 3 draft choices, he had his first pass interception last season since his only other one in 1968. Every season he is among the ironmen in minutes played because of his durability.

Defensive backs

CHARLIE WEAVER SOUTHERN CAL

No. 59 -- Charlie Weaver, LB, 6-2, 218 -- is expected to take over the vacancy created when Wayne Walker retired after Walker's 15 years at the corner. Weaver was one of the stars of the college All-Star game before joining the Lions as No. 2 choice in 1971, and as a rookie he played in all 14 games, primarily on the specialty teams. Not big, but very quick, he puts all 218 pounds into every tackle and had Lions' fans shuddering at the contact of his open field tackles. He saw a lot of action as Walker's understudy and is now well groomed for the job.

LEM BARNEY JACKSON STATE

No. 20 -- Lem Barney, CB, 6-0, 185 -- looked like the Barney of old in 1972 even in a much-maligned Lions' defense. He became the highest paid Lions' defensive back in history when he signed a two year contract this year. Opposing teams also knew he was the Barney of 1967 - 70 when they preferred to stay away from his left corner position. Barney has accumulated a long list of spectaculars which have been recorded as "Lem's Gems" among which are included interception returns of 24-45-71-95-45-28 yards for TD's; punt returns of 61-74; kickoff returns of 98 and field goal returns of 94 and 7 yards for TD's.

RUDY REDMOND PACIFIC

No. 46 -- Rudy Redmond, CB, 6-1, 195 -- played in 14 games as a rookie in 1969, went through an injury plagued season in 1971 with Atlanta and gained excellent experience last year with the Lions. He is now ready for a big year and together with Barney, could give the Lions one of the stronger cornerback tandems in the NFC. The Lions were skeptical about his 1971 injury but he recovered well and had two interceptions, one for an 88 yard touchdown last year, which was his first TD in 8 total steals.

Kickers

MIKE WEGER BOWLING GREEN

No. 28 -- Mike Weger, S, 6-2, 195 -- failed to come up with an interception for the first time since his shutout as a rookie in 1967. He has missed only one game in six years since coming from Bowling Green as the No. 9 choice where he was recognized as one of the school's best all around athletes. He didn't have his best year in 1972 as the Lions did have safety problems when Tom Vaughn retired and Dick LeBeau was moved from safety, but Weger is regarded as a hard nosed tackler and could make 1973 his best season. He has two pro touchdowns, one on an interception and another on a fumble.

ERROL MANN NORTH DAKOTA

No. 12 -- Errol Mann, K, 6-0, 200 -- missed scoring at least 100 points for the first time since joining the Lions in 1969 as a free agent. With a 98 point finish the toughest break was the blocked field goal against Minnesota which would have given the Lions a victory and have given him 101 points, which he had in 1969 and 1970. He had 103 points in 1971. He had a perfect extra point total of 108 prior to 1972 and had one blocked last season for 38 of 39, to go with his 20 of 29 field goal attempts.

HERMAN WEAVER TENNESSEE

No. 18 -- Herman Weaver, P, 6-5, 215 -- had his poorest season with the Lions since his No. 3 selection in 1970. He averaged just 40.3 in 43 punts and was not able to get the "hang times" he did in his first two seasons. He changed from a 3-step to a 2-step motion. The Lions, uncertain as to whether it was just a bad year for Weaver, invited punter-quarterback Joe Zuger from Canada into camp. Zuger, a Lions' draft choice in 1962, is 32 but he led CFL punters with a 43.0 average in 1972. As a rookie in 1970, only 18 of his punts could be returned because he had them hanging up so long.

SPORTS FOCUS STATISTICAL GUIDE

'72 Detroit Statistics

TEAM STATISTICS	Lions	Opponents
Total Points	339	290
Touchdowns	40	34
Rushing	20	14
Passing	19	18
Returns	1	2
First Downs	240	239
Rushing	120	126
Passing	97	103
Penalty	23	10
Total Yards Gained	4155	4208
Avg. Per Game	296.8	300.6
Rushing (Net)	2021	2204
Avg. Per Game	144.4	157.4
Total Rushes	473	491
Avg. Yardage	4.3	4.5
Passing (Net)	2134	2004
Avg. Per Game	152.4	143.1
Total Passes Att.	305	312
Completed	155	171
Pct. Completed	50.8	54.8
Tackled/Yds. Lost	26/149	21/142
Intercepted By	12	18
Yds. Returned	184	294
Returned for TD	0	1
Punt Returns	18	26
Avg. Return	5.6	12.3
Kickoff Returns	52	68
Avg. Return	25.1	23.4
Fumbles/Fumbles Lost	17/7	32/15

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Taylor	154	658	4.3	4
Landry	81	524	6.5	9
Owens	143	519	3.6	4
Farr	62	216	3.5	3
Triplett	17	48	2.8	0
Zofko	7	28	4.0	0
Eddy	8	28	3.5	0
Munson	1	0	0.0	0

BEST ONE GAME RUSHING
1950—Bob Hoernschemeyer, 198 yards.

BEST ONE SEASON RUSHING
1971—Steve Owens, 1,035 yards.

MOST ATTEMPTS ONE SEASON
1971—Steve Owens, 246 attempts.

LONGEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE
1950—Bob Hoernschemeyer, 96 yards.

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Zofko	26	616	23.7	49
Jessie	23	558	24.3	62
Others	3	130	43.3	50

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN
1958—Terry Barr (92) and Gene Gedman (12), 104 yards.

MOST KICKOFF RETURNS ONE SEASON
1964—Pat Studstill, 29 returns.

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Barney	15	108	7.2	26
L. Walton	3	-8	-2.6	-
Others	0	0	0	0

LONGEST PUNT RETURN
1963—Tommy Watkins, 90 yards.

MOST PUNT RETURNS ONE GAME
1968—Lem Barney, 6 returns (most recent).

MOST PUNT RETURNS ONE SEASON
1963—Tom Watkins, 32 returns.

SCORING	TD	EP	FG	Pts.
Mann	0	38	20	98
Landry	9	0	0	54
Taylor	6	0	0	36
L. Walton	6	0	0	36
Owens	4	0	0	24
Jessie	4	0	0	24
Farr	3	0	0	18
Sanders	2	0	0	12
Barnes	1	0	0	6
Others	5	1	0	31

BEST ONE GAME SCORING
1950—Cloyce Box, 24 points.

BEST ONE SEASON SCORING
1950—Doak Walker, 128 points.

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Taylor	29	250	8.6	2
Sanders	27	416	15.4	2
L. Walton	24	485	20.3	6
Jessie	24	424	17.7	4
Owens	15	100	6.7	0
Others	36	608	16.9	5

BEST ONE GAME PASS RECEIVING
1950—Cloyce Box, 12 receptions.

BEST ONE SEASON PASS RECEIVING
1966—Pat Studstill, 67 receptions.

MOST TD RECEPTIONS ONE GAME
1950—Cloyce Box, 4 touchdowns.

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD
Landry	268	134	2066	18
Munson	35	20	194	1
Others	2	1	23	0

LONGEST PASS COMPLETION
1966—Karl Sweetan, 99 yards.

MOST COMPLETIONS ONE GAME
1968—Bill Munson, 26 completions (most recent).

MOST COMPLETIONS ONE SEASON
1968—Bill Munson, 181 completions.

MOST YARDS PASSING ONE GAME
1950—Bobby Layne, 374 yards.

MOST YARDS PASSING ONE SEASON
1963—Earl Morrall, 2621 yards.

MOST TD PASSES ONE SEASON
1951—Bobby Layne, 26 touchdown passes.

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Barney	3	88	29.3	64
Redmond	2	91	45.5	88
Rasmussen	2	1	0.5	1
Lucci	2	0	0.0	0
Naumoff	1	4	4.0	4
Mitchell	1	0	0.0	0
C. Weaver	1	0	0.0	0

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN
1949—Bob Smith, 102 yards

FIELD GOALS	No.	Att.	Blkd.	Long
Mann	20	29	1	51

PUNTING	No.	Avg.	Long
H. Weaver	43	40.3	55

LONGEST PUNT
1946—Bill deCorrevont, 81 yards.

BEST PUNTING AVERAGE ONE SEASON
1963—Yale Lary, 48.9 yards.

Determined Greg Landry rushes for extra yardage.

Leading rushers Steve Owens (above) and Altie Taylor (below).

'72 NFL Final Standings

National Football Conference

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Washington	11	3	0	.786	336	218
*Dallas	10	4	0	.714	319	240
New York Giants	8	6	0	.571	331	247
St. Louis	4	9	1	.321	193	303
Philadelphia	2	11	1	.179	145	352
Central Division						
Green Bay	10	4	0	.714	304	226
Detroit	8	5	1	.607	339	290
Minnesota	7	7	0	.500	301	252
Chicago	4	9	1	.321	225	275
Western Division						
San Francisco	8	5	1	.607	353	249
Atlanta	7	7	0	.500	269	274
Los Angeles	6	7	1	.464	291	286
New Orleans	2	11	1	.179	215	361

*Fourth qualifier for playoffs

American Football Conference

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	14	0	0	1.000	385	171
New York Jets	7	7	0	.500	367	324
Baltimore	5	9	0	.429	235	252
Buffalo	4	9	1	.321	257	377
New England	3	11	0	.214	192	446
Central Division						
Pittsburgh	11	3	0	.786	343	175
*Cleveland	10	4	0	.714	268	249
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	299	229
Houston	1	13	0	.071	164	380
Western Division						
Oakland	10	3	1	.750	365	248
Kansas City	8	6	0	.571	287	254
Denver	5	9	0	.429	325	350
San Diego	4	9	1	.321	264	344

*Fourth qualifier for playoffs

NFC TEAM OFFENSE	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg.
New York Giants	2022	2461	4483	320.2
Dallas	2124	2342	4466	319.0
Los Angeles	2209	2146	4355	311.1
San Francisco	1616	2735	4351	310.8
Washington	2082	2193	4275	305.4
Minnesota	1740	2523	4263	304.5
Detroit	2021	2134	4155	296.8
Atlanta	2092	1919	4011	286.5
New Orleans	1230	2434	3664	261.7
Green Bay	2127	1412	3539	252.8
Chicago	2360	1108	3468	247.7
Philadelphia	1393	2070	3463	247.4
St. Louis	1229	2038	3267	233.4

AFC TEAM OFFENSE	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg.
Miami	2951	2076	5027	359.1
New York Jets	2010	2777	4787	341.9
Oakland	2376	2369	4745	338.9
Denver	1838	2634	4472	319.4
Cincinnati	1996	2321	4317	308.4
San Diego	1995	2304	4299	307.1
Pittsburgh	2520	1711	4231	302.2
Baltimore	1894	2293	4187	299.1
Kansas City	1915	2038	3953	282.4
Buffalo	2132	1601	3733	266.6
Cleveland	1793	1916	3709	264.9
New England	1532	2127	3659	261.4
Houston	1518	1673	3191	227.9

NFC TEAM DEFENSE	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg.
Green Bay	1517	1957	3474	248.1
Washington	1733	1862	3595	256.8
Minnesota	2002	1699	3701	264.4
Dallas	1515	2240	3755	268.2
Atlanta	2063	1704	3767	269.1
Los Angeles	1762	2145	3907	279.1
Chicago	1751	2172	3923	280.2
San Francisco	1847	2179	4026	287.6
New York Giants	1855	2339	4194	299.6
Detroit	2204	2004	4208	300.6
New Orleans	2089	2402	4491	320.8
Philadelphia	2266	2472	4738	338.4
St. Louis	2189	2550	4739	338.5

AFC TEAM DEFENSE	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg.
Miami	1548	1749	3297	235.5
Cincinnati	1815	1737	3552	253.7
Pittsburgh	1715	2056	3771	269.4
Denver	1668	2183	3851	275.1
San Diego	1673	2208	3881	277.2
Oakland	1764	2152	3916	279.7
Kansas City	1805	2222	4027	287.6
Cleveland	2333	1736	4069	290.6
Buffalo	2232	1951	4183	298.8
Baltimore	1989	2323	4312	308.0
New York Jets	2072	2637	4709	336.4
Houston	2591	2143	4734	338.1
New England	2717	2533	5250	375.0

Jim Kiick, the third man in the Miami backfield, is used on passing situations.

Important players for Miami (above) Doug Swift and (below) Bob Griese.

'72 NFC-AFC Leaders

NFC SCORING	TD	EP	FG	Pts.
Marcol, G.B.	0	29/29	33/48	128
Ray, L.A.	0	31/31	24/41	103
Fritsch, Dall.	0	36/36	21/36	99
Mann, Det.	0	38/39	20/29	98
Gogolak, N.Y.	0	34/38	21/31	97
Cox, Minn.	0	34/34	21/33	97
Gossett, S.F.	0	41/42	18/29	95
Ron Johnson, N.Y.	14	0	0	84
Brown, Wash.	12	0	0	72
G. Washington, S.F.	12	0	0	72
Malone, Atl.	10	0	0	60
Garrison, Dall.	10	0	0	60
Landry, Det.	9	0	0	54
Brockington, G.B.	9	0	0	54
Hill, Dall.	9	0	0	54
Kwalick, S.F.	9	0	0	54

AFC SCORING	TD	EP	FG	Pts.
Howfield, N.Y.	0	40/41	27/37	121
Gerela, Pitt.	0	35/36	28/41	119
Yepremian, Mia.	0	43/45	24/37	115
Muhlmann, Cin.	0	30/31	27/38	111
J. Turner, Den.	0	37/37	20/29	97
Blanda, Oak.	0	44/44	17/26	95
Stenerud, K.C.	0	32/32	21/36	95
Cockroft, Clev.	0	28/29	22/27	94
Boozer, N.Y.	14	0	0	84
Little, Den.	13	0	0	78
Morris, Mia.	12	0	0	72
Harris, Pitt.	11	0	0	66
Smith, Oak.	10	0	0	60
Caster, N.Y.	10	0	0	60
Riggins, N.Y.	8	0	0	48
Chester, Oak.	8	0	0	48

BEST PERFORMANCE

NFC—24 pts., Ron Johnson, New York Giants vs. Philadelphia, October 2, 4 TDS.
AFC—19 pts., Horst Muhlmann, Cincinnati vs. Houston, December 17, 7 PATS, 4 FGS.

NFC PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD
Snead, N.Y.	325	196	2307	17
Berry, Atl.	277	154	2158	13
Tarkenton, Minn.	378	215	2651	18
Kilmer, Wash.	225	120	1648	19
Spurrier, S.F.	269	147	1983	18
Landry, Det.	268	134	2066	18
Morton, Dall.	339	185	2396	15
Manning, N.O.	448	230	2781	18
Gabriel, L.A.	323	165	2027	12
Reaves, Phil.	224	108	1508	7
Hunter, G.B.	199	86	1252	6
Douglass, Chi.	198	75	1246	9
Cuozzo, St. L.	158	69	897	5

AFC PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD
Morrall, Mia.	150	83	1360	11
Lamonica, Oak.	281	149	1998	18
Johnson, Den.	238	132	1783	14
Unitas, Balt.	157	88	1111	4
Anderson, Cin.	301	171	1918	7
Domres, Balt.	222	115	1392	11
Dawson, K.C.	305	175	1835	13
Namath, N.Y.	324	162	2816	19
Shaw, Buff.	258	136	1666	14
Hadl, S.D.	370	190	2449	15
Phipps, Clev.	305	144	1994	13
Bradshaw, Pitt.	308	147	1887	12
Pastorini, Hou.	299	144	1711	7

LONGEST COMPLETION

NFC—98 yds., Jim Hart, St. Louis vs. Los Angeles, December 10.
AFC—83 yds., Joe Namath, New York Jets vs. Baltimore, October 22, TD.

NFC RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jackson, Phil	62	1048	16.9	4
Tucker, N.Y.	55	764	13.9	4
Malone, Atl.	50	585	11.7	2
C. Taylor, Wash.	49	673	13.7	7
Gilliam, Minn.	47	1035	22.0	7
Newland, N.O.	47	579	12.3	2
G. Washington, S.F.	46	918	20.0	12
Ron Johnson, N.Y.	45	451	10.0	5
V. Washington, S.F.	43	393	9.1	1
Hill, Dall.	43	364	8.5	3
Kwalick, S.F.	40	751	18.8	9
Abramowicz, N.O.	38	668	17.6	7
Roland, St. L.	38	321	8.4	2
Garrison, Dall.	37	390	10.5	3
Jefferson, Wash.	35	550	15.7	3

AFC RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Bilentnikoff, Oak.	58	802	13.8	7
Taylor, K.C.	57	821	14.4	6
Myers, Cin.	57	792	13.9	3
Hill, Buff.	52	754	14.5	5
Garrison, S.D.	52	744	14.3	7
Podolak, K.C.	46	345	7.5	2
Willis, Hou.	45	297	6.6	2
Rucker, N.E.	44	681	15.5	3
Trumpy, Cin.	44	500	11.4	2
Edwards, S.D.	40	557	13.9	2
T. Mitchell, Balt.	40	494	12.4	4
Caster, N.Y.	39	833	21.4	10
Dressler, Cin.	39	348	8.9	1
Shanklin, Pitt.	38	669	17.6	3
Sherman, Den.	38	661	17.4	3

LONGEST RECEPTION

NFC—98 yds., Bobby Moore, St. Louis vs. Los Angeles, December 10.
AFC—83 yds., Eddie Bell, New York Jets vs. Baltimore, October 22, TD.

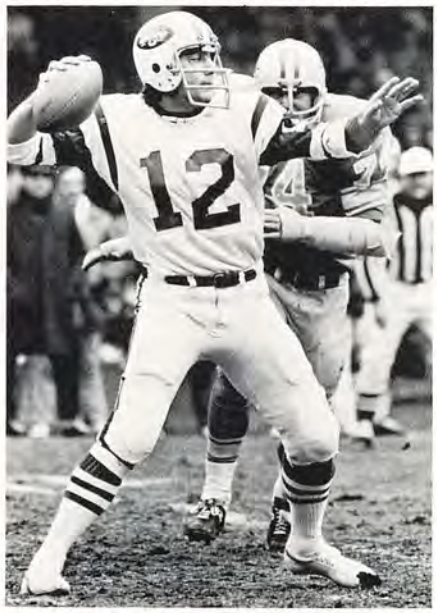
NFC INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Bradley, Phil.	9	73	21	0
Ford, Chi.	7	104	43	0
Nettles, L.A.	6	168	43	0
Waters, Dall.	6	132	56	1
Krause, Minn.	6	109	35	1
Hayes, Atl.	5	10	8	0
Ellis, G.B.	4	106	40	1
Hanburger, Wash.	4	98	41	1
Bryant, Minn.	4	82	34	0
Lee, N.O.	4	65	32	0
Buchanon, G.B.	4	62	26	0
Fischer, Wash.	4	61	35	0

AFC INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Sensibaugh, K.C.	8	65	35	0
Tannen, N.Y.	7	125	32	0
Salter, S.D.	7	111	31	0
Ham, Pitt.	7	83	32	1
Lee, Buff.	6	155	61	1
Beauchamp, S.D.	6	96	47	1
Wagner, Pitt.	6	77	35	0
Kearney, K.C.	5	192	65	4
Casanova, Cin.	5	108	33	0
Parrish, Cin.	5	90	33	2
Scott, Mia.	5	73	31	0
Dunlap, S.D.	5	67	25	0

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN

NFC—88 yds., Rudy Redmond, Detroit vs. Los Angeles, December 17, TD.
AFC—82 yds., Phil Villapiano, Oakland vs. Los Angeles, October 29, TD.

Leading the Packers' defensive secondary is Ken Ellis with four interceptions.



(Above) Joe Namath and (below) Gene Washington would make a deadly duo.

'72 NFC-AFC Leaders cont.

NFC RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Brown, Wash.	285	1216	4.3	8
Ron Johnson, N.Y.	298	1182	4.0	9
Hill, Dall.	245	1036	4.2	6
Brockington, G.B.	274	1027	3.7	8
Hampton, Atl.	230	995	4.3	6
Douglass, Chi.	141	968	6.9	8
Lane, G.B.	177	821	4.6	3
Malone, Atl.	180	798	4.4	8
Garrison, Dall.	167	784	4.7	7
Ellison, L.A.	170	764	4.5	5
Taylor, Det.	154	658	4.3	4
Reed, Minn.	151	639	4.2	2
Harrison, Chi.	167	622	3.7	2
Bertelsen, L.A.	123	581	4.7	5
Harraway, Wash.	148	567	3.8	6
James, Phil.	182	565	3.1	0
Anderson, St.L.	153	536	3.5	4
Landry, Det.	81	524	6.5	9

AFC RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Simpson, Buff.	292	1251	4.3	6
Csonka, Mia.	213	1117	5.2	6
Hubbard, Oak.	219	1100	5.0	4
Harris, Pitt.	188	1055	5.6	10
Garrett, S.D.	272	1031	3.8	6
Morris, Mia.	191	991	5.2	12
Riggins, N.Y.	207	944	4.6	7
Little, Den.	216	859	4.0	9
E. Johnson, Cin.	212	825	3.9	4
Kelly, Clev.	224	811	3.6	4
Smith, Oak.	170	686	4.0	8
Edwards, S.D.	157	679	4.3	5
McCauley, Balt.	178	675	3.8	2
Fuqua, Pitt.	150	665	4.4	4
Podolak, K.C.	171	615	3.6	4
Scott, Clev.	123	571	4.6	2
Dressler, Cin.	128	565	4.4	6
Boozer, N.Y.	120	549	4.6	11

BEST PERFORMANCE

NFC—191 yds., Larry Brown, Washington vs. New York Giants, October 29.
AFC—189 yds., O. J. Simpson, Buffalo vs. Pittsburgh, October 29.

O. J. Simpson the leading rusher in the NFL for 1972.

NFC K.O. RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Smith, Chi.	30	924	30.8	94
Nelson, Phil.	25	728	29.1	78
V. Washington, S.F.	27	771	28.6	98
Thompson, N.Y.	29	821	28.3	92
Thomas, G.B.	21	572	27.2	89
Gilliam, Minn.	14	369	26.4	47
Turner, Chi.	16	409	25.6	57
Ellison, L.A.	14	345	24.6	32
Jessie, Det.	23	558	24.3	62
Duncan, Wash.	15	364	24.3	41
Adkins, N.O.	43	1020	23.7	61
Zofko, Det.	26	616	23.7	49
Harris, Dall.	26	615	23.7	44
Walik, Phil.	21	466	22.2	35

AFC K.O. RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Laird, Balt.	29	843	29.1	73
Marshall, K.C.	23	651	28.3	48
R. Montgomery, Den.	29	756	26.1	94
Davis, Oak.	18	464	25.8	49
Garrett, N.E.	16	410	25.6	49
Wyatt, Buff.	17	432	25.4	43
Cole, Buff.	18	456	25.3	51
Greene, Buff.	15	378	25.2	66
Jackson, Cin.	21	509	24.2	62
Faraspoulos, N.Y.	26	627	24.1	51
Morris, Mia.	14	334	23.9	33
Dawkins, Den.	15	357	23.8	31
Brown, Clev.	20	473	23.7	47
Parrish, Cin.	15	348	23.2	45

LONGEST RETURN

NFC—98 yds., Vic Washington, San Francisco vs. Atlanta, October 29, TD.
AFC—94 yds., Randy Montgomery, Denver vs. San Diego, September 24, TD.

Tops in their field (above) Larry Csonka and (below) Chester Marcol.

NFC PUNTING	No.	Avg.	Long
Chapple, L.A.	53	44.2	70
Eischeid, Minn.	62	42.8	61
James, Atl.	61	42.8	59
Blanchard, N.Y.	47	42.7	58
Widby, G.B.	65	41.8	64
Green, Chi.	67	41.2	58
Fagan, N.O.	71	40.8	71
H. Weaver, Det.	43	40.3	55
Bradley, Phil.	56	40.2	60
McCann, S.F.	64	39.7	63
Anderson, St. L.	72	39.5	61
Bragg, Wash.	59	38.5	62
Bateman, Dall.	51	38.2	61

AFC PUNTING	No.	Avg.	Long
Wilson, K.C.	66	44.8	69
Walden, Pitt.	65	43.8	72
Cockroft, Clev.	81	43.2	65
Lee, Balt.	57	42.3	60
Lewis, Cin.	66	42.1	60
Pastorini, Hou.	82	41.2	63
Partee, S.D.	45	40.3	65
Van Heusen, Den.	60	40.1	60
Seiple, Mia.	36	39.9	54
O'Neal, N.Y.	51	39.3	57
Jones, Buff.	80	38.8	67
Studstill, N.E.	75	38.1	57
DePoyster, Oak.	55	36.9	57

LONGEST PUNT

NFC—71 yds., Julius Fagan, New Orleans vs. Los Angeles, November 26.
AFC—72 yds., Bobby Walden, Pittsburgh vs. Oakland, September 17.

NFC PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Ellis, G. B.	14	215	15.4	80
Bertelsen, L.A.	16	232	14.5	60
McGill, S.F.	22	219	10.0	33
Barney, Det.	15	108	7.2	26
Bradley, Phil.	22	155	7.0	60
B. Taylor, S.F.	21	145	6.9	41
West, Minn.	16	111	6.9	23
Belton, Atl.	17	110	6.5	34
Smith, Chi.	26	163	6.3	29
Vactor, Wash.	17	88	5.2	28
Harris, Dall.	19	78	4.1	21

AFC PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Farasopoulos, N.Y.	17	179	10.5	65
Casanova, Cin.	30	289	9.6	66
Leigh, Mia.	22	210	9.5	27
Dunlap, S.D.	19	179	9.4	21
Parrish, Cin.	15	141	9.4	51
Edwards, Pitt.	22	202	9.2	54
Laird, Balt.	34	303	8.9	42
Majors, Clev.	16	96	6.0	41
Houston, Hou.	25	148	5.9	33
Marshall, K.C.	18	103	5.7	29
Darden, Clev.	15	61	4.1	37

LONGEST RETURN

NFC—85 yds., Jon Staggers, Green Bay vs. Houston, November 19, TD.
AFC—66 yds., Tommy Casanova, Cincinnati vs. Denver, October 8, TD.

1973 National Footb

PRESEASON & REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

PICK SCORE

FRIDAY, AUG. 3 (First Week)
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Washington _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at Houston _____

SATURDAY, AUG. 4
- ☐ ☐ Chicago vs. Green Bay at Milw. _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at San Diego _____

FRIDAY, AUG. 10 (Second Week)
- ☐ ☐ Washington at Denver _____

SATURDAY, AUG. 11
- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at Green Bay _____
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco vs. N.Y. Jets at Tampa _____

SUNDAY , AUG. 12 (Third Week)
- ☐ ☐ N.Y. Giants at New England _____

MONDAY, AUG. 13
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Kansas City _____

FRIDAY, AUG. 17
- ☐ ☐ Washington at Buffalo _____

SATURDAY, AUG. 18
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Miami _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit vs. Baltimore at Memphis _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston vs. Green Bay at Milw. _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Kansas City _____

SUNDAY, AUG. 19 (Fourth Week)
- ☐ ☐ N.Y. Jets vs. N.Y. Giants at New Haven _____

FRIDAY, AUG. 24
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Detroit _____

SATURDAY, AUG. 25
- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at Washington _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ N.Y. Jets at St. Louis _____

SUNDAY, AUG. 26 (Fifth Week)
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at Kansas City _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Giants at Yankee Sta. _____

FRIDAY, AUG. 31
- ☐ ☐ Miami at Minnesota _____

SATURDAY, SEPT. 1
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ N.Y. Giants vs. Philadelphia at Princeton _____
- ☐ ☐ N.Y. Jets at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Green Bay _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Chicago _____

SUNDAY, SEPT. 2 (Sixth Week)
- ☐ ☐ Washington at New England _____

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7
- ☐ ☐ New England at Detroit _____

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ N.Y. Giants vs. Cleveland at Akron _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Jets at Tampa _____

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9 (Seventh Week)
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Washington _____

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16 (First Week)
- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at New England _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Denver _____
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Pittsburgh _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at New York Giants _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at Kansas City _____
- ☐ ☐ Oakland at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Philadelphia _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at Washington _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at Miami _____

MONDAY, SEPT. 17
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets vs. Green Bay at Milw. _____

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23 (Second Week)
- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at Los Angeles _____
- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Pittsburgh _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Green Bay _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ Kansas City at New England _____
- ☐ ☐ Miami at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at New York Giants _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at Denver _____
- ☐ ☐ Washington at St. Louis _____

MONDAY, SEPT. 24
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans at Dallas _____

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30 (Third Week)
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Denver _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at San Francisco _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at Miami _____
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ Oakland at Kansas City _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Dallas _____
- ☐ ☐ Washington at Philadelphia _____

MONDAY, OCT. 1
- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at Detroit _____

SUNDAY, OCT. 7 (Fourth Week)
- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at New England _____
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at Kansas City _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at New York Giants _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ Miami at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Detroit _____
- ☐ ☐ Oakland at St. Louis _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at Pittsburgh _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at Atlanta _____

MONDAY, OCT. 8
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at Washington _____

SUNDAY, OCT. 14 (Fifth Week)
- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Atlanta _____
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at Los Angeles _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ Kansas City vs. Green Bay at Milw. _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at San Francisco _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at St. Louis _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ Washington at New York Giants _____

MONDAY, OCT. 15
- ☐ ☐ Miami at Cleveland _____

all League Schedule

SUNDAY, OCT. 21 (Sixth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at Detroit _____
- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at Miami _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at Los Angeles _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ Kansas City at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans at San Francisco _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at Dallas _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Washington _____

MONDAY, OCT. 22

- ☐ ☐ Oakland at Denver _____

SUNDAY, OCT. 28 (Seventh Week)

- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at San Francisco _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Pittsburgh _____
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at Philadelphia _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at Detroit _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ Miami at New England _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at St. Louis _____
- ☐ ☐ Oakland at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ Washington at New Orleans _____

MONDAY, OCT. 29

- ☐ ☐ Kansas City at Buffalo _____

SUNDAY, NOV. 4 (Eighth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Green Bay _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Dallas _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at St. Louis _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ Kansas City at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at Atlanta _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at Philadelphia _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at Miami _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at Detroit _____

MONDAY, NOV. 5

- ☐ ☐ Washington at Pittsburgh _____

SUNDAY, NOV. 11 (Ninth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at Philadelphia _____
- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at Miami _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at New York Giants _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans at Los Angeles _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at New England _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Green Bay _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at Denver _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at Washington _____

MONDAY, NOV. 12

- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Kansas City _____

SUNDAY, NOV. 18 (Tenth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at Washington _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at Pittsburgh _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at New England _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at Kansas City _____
- ☐ ☐ Miami at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at Dallas _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at New York Giants _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at Los Angeles _____

MONDAY, NOV. 19

- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Atlanta _____

THURS., NOV. 22 (Eleventh Week)

- ☐ ☐ Washington at Detroit _____
- ☐ ☐ Miami at Dallas _____

SUNDAY, NOV. 25

- ☐ ☐ Atlanta at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Minnesota _____
- ☐ ☐ Kansas City at Denver _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at Philadelphia _____
- ☐ ☐ Oakland at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Cincinnati _____

MONDAY, NOV. 26

- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at San Francisco _____

SUNDAY, DEC. 2 (Twelfth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Baltimore at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at Atlanta _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Kansas City _____
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at Denver _____
- ☐ ☐ Detroit at St. Louis _____
- ☐ ☐ Los Angeles at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Cincinnati _____
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans vs. Green Bay at Milw. _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at Washington _____
- ☐ ☐ Oakland at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at San Francisco _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at New England _____

MONDAY, DEC. 3

- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at Miami _____

SAT., DEC. 8 (Thirteenth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Kansas City at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at Green Bay _____

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

- ☐ ☐ Chicago at Detroit _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Cleveland _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at San Diego _____
- ☐ ☐ Houston at Pittsburgh _____
- ☐ ☐ Miami at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at Buffalo _____
- ☐ ☐ New York Jets at Philadelphia _____
- ☐ ☐ St. Louis at Atlanta _____
- ☐ ☐ San Francisco at New Orleans _____
- ☐ ☐ Washington at Dallas _____

MONDAY, DEC. 10

- ☐ ☐ New York Giants at Los Angeles _____

SAT., DEC. 15 (Fourteenth Week)

- ☐ ☐ Detroit at Miami _____
- ☐ ☐ Pittsburgh at San Francisco _____

SUNDAY, DEC. 16

- ☐ ☐ Buffalo at New York Jets _____
- ☐ ☐ Cincinnati at Houston _____
- ☐ ☐ Cleveland at Los Angeles _____
- ☐ ☐ Dallas at St. Louis _____
- ☐ ☐ Denver at Oakland _____
- ☐ ☐ Green Bay at Chicago _____
- ☐ ☐ Minnesota at New York Giants _____
- ☐ ☐ New England at Baltimore _____
- ☐ ☐ New Orleans at Atlanta _____
- ☐ ☐ Philadelphia at Washington _____
- ☐ ☐ San Diego at Kansas City _____

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23
AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30
AFC Championship Game
NFC Championship Game
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1974
Super Bowl VIII at Houston
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1974
AFC—NFC Pro Bowl at Kansas City

NFL Official Signals

Offside, Encroaching or Free Kick Violation | Crawling, Pushing or Helping Runner | Illegal Motion at Snap | Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Loss of Down | Delay of Game or Excess Time-Out | Touchdown, Field Goal or Successful Try | Safety | Interference With Fair Catch or Forward Pass

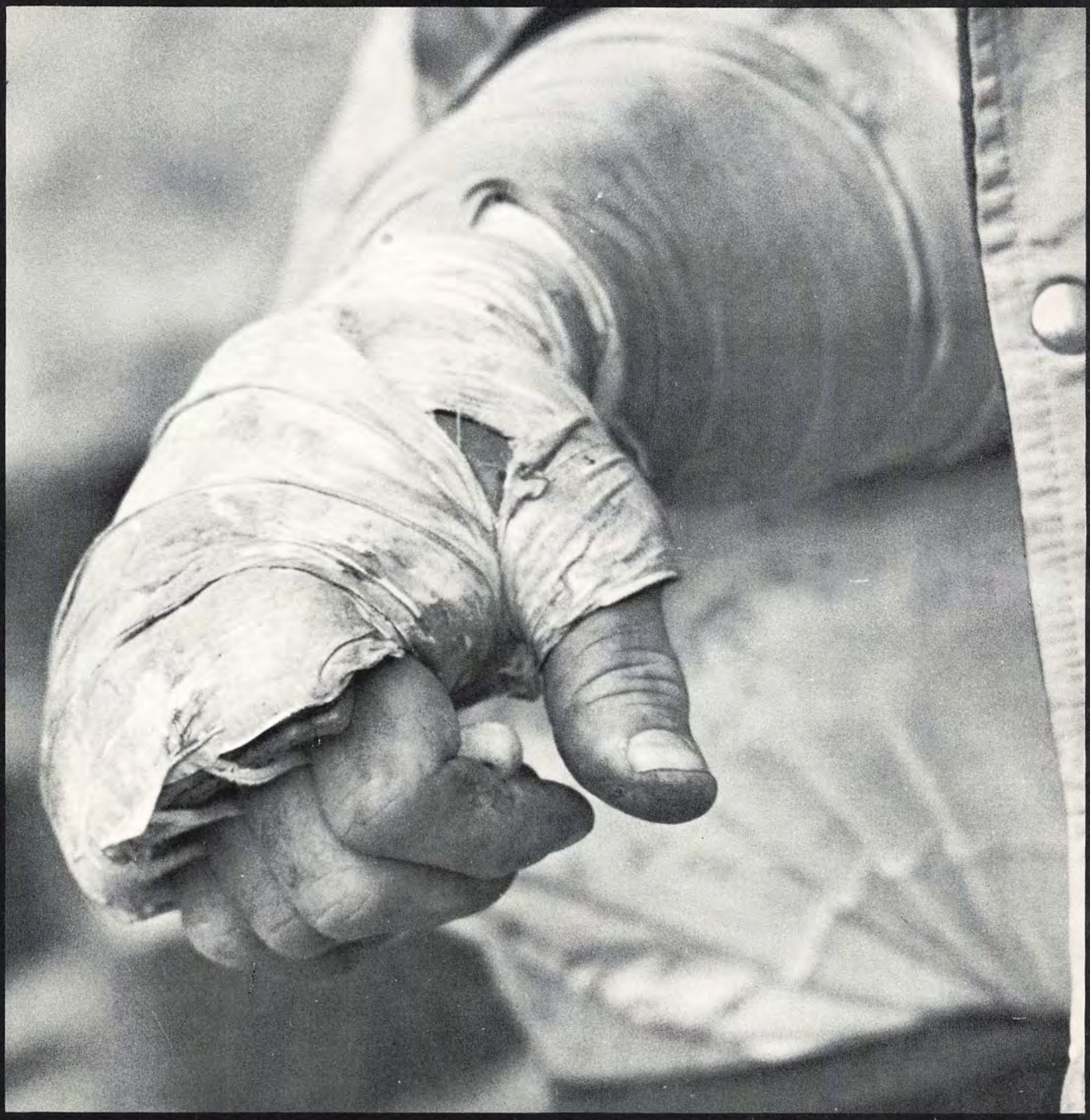
Personal Foul | First Down | Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established | Illegal Forward Pass

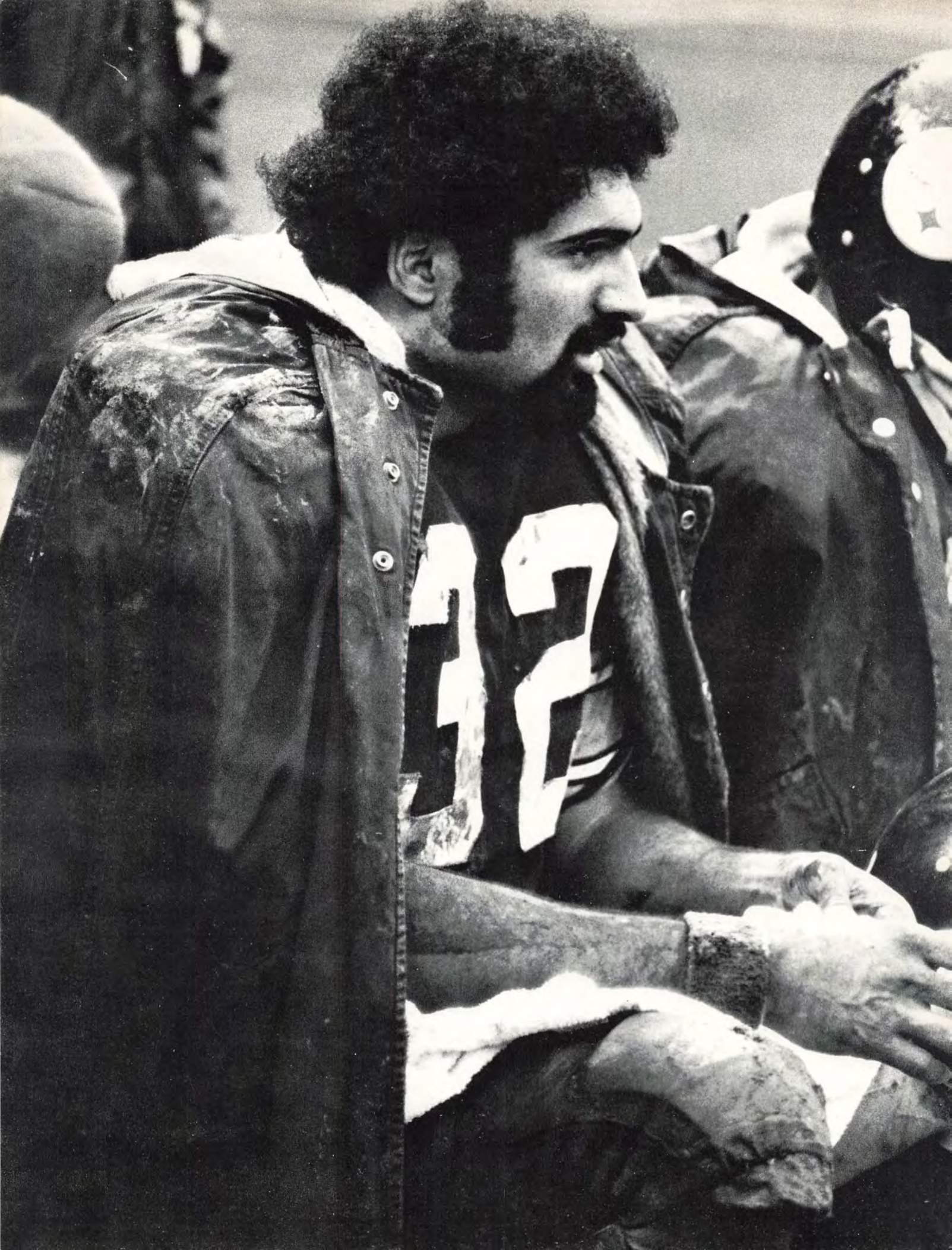
Time-Out | Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Goal | Ineligible Receiver Downfield | Illegal Use of Hands | Holding

(Above) Bud Grant of the Vikings talks it over & (below) the Bears give up 10.

Bill Andrews looks on as the official rules for a first down against the Browns.

SPORTS FOCUS PRO SCENE





1972 NFL ROOKIE REVIEW

By Dan McGrath

Back in the summer of 1968, Richard M. Nixon, who was yet to make his mark as an assistant to Don Shula at Miami, surprised the country by using his first draft pick to tab Spiro T. Agnew, a rangy bruiser from Maryland, as his vice-presidential choice.

"Spiro Who?" the nation asked.

"I'll be the first to admit that I'm not exactly a household word," Agnew understated.

The Pittsburgh Steelers found themselves in a similar predicament at draft time in 1972. After landing such solid professionals as Mean Joe Greene, Jon Kolb, Terry Bradshaw, Ron Shanklin and Jack Ham in the previous three NFL talent auctions, Pittsburgh raised some eyebrows by selecting Penn State running back Franco Harris on the first round.

"What in the world is a Franco Harris?" the experts mused. "It looks like the Steelers have finally run out of luck when it comes to recognizing talent."

How very wrong they were. Just as Agnew made himself one of the most visible men in America with his blockbusting public speaking style, so did Harris pound his way into the hearts of America's sporting public by emerging as the brightest young running star to crash the NFL since Gale Sayers exploded onto the scene with 22 touchdowns back in 1965.

What made Harris' feat all the more remarkable was the fact that it was a total surprise. Outside of Pittsburgh. The Steelers, displaying the same kind of perceptiveness that had enabled them to build their team around draft choices like Bradshaw, Greene, Shanklin, Frank Lewis and Ham, knew they had a good one in the black Italian-American, but he wasn't expected to set the NFL on its ear like he did. Not even in Pittsburgh.

Harris' Penn State teammate, halfback Lydell Mitchell, had dominated the headlines in the three seasons that he and Franco combined talents to give Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions what was very probably the country's premiere collegiate backfield. For that reason, Mitchell was the man the pro

continued on next page

ROOKIE SENSATIONS — *Franco Harris (left) and Chester Marcol (right) proved to be solid performers.*

scouts coveted most. "Pittsburgh made a mistake," they sagely pointed out, "by going for Harris when Mitchell, LSU's Tommy Casanova, Jeff Kinney of Nebraska and a host of other running back possibilities were still available."

With that kind of an eye for talent, it's indeed a wonder if a scout who would make such an assessment is still employed. All Harris did was transform the Steelers, for years one of the NFL's lowliest teams — in fact, the only charter member of the league that had never won a championship of some kind — into an instant Super Bowl contender. Pittsburgh, in a season that is likely never to be forgotten on the banks of the Monongahela, captured its first divisional title ever with a regular season mark of 11-3, eked out a 13-7 victory over Oakland in the first round of the AFC playoffs with an improbable finish that is still the talk of watering holes from coast to coast, and came within a single touchdown of removing the Miami Dolphins from the unbeaten ranks in the AFC title game. One more touchdown would have deposited the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl. An expert who made such a preposterous suggestion in pre-season speculation would have been a candidate for a long rest in a quiet place, but that was before the advent of "Franco's Italian Army" and its lionized leader, probably the best foot soldier to enter the league since Jim Brown.

To say that Harris had a hand in the transformation of the Steelers, and to carry the military analogy a step further, is like saying that Ike did his share to win World War II for the Allies. Both men had help, yet both were the figures from whom so much was expected that in the end, success or failure hinged more on their efforts than on the performance of any other individual.

The Steelers were recognized as one of the coming teams of the NFL prior to 1972; of that there was little question. Coach Chuck Noll, in his first term at the helm of a pro team, had inherited an impressive nucleus of promising youngsters when he took over, but it was Noll who liked what he saw in the likes of Bradshaw, Shanklin, Lewis, Ham and the others and made the decision to reconstruct the Steelers through the draft. His shrewdness in the flesh market in his first three years was unmatched, and by the time Harris arrived Pittsburgh was ready to blossom. Franco speeded up the timetable.

Bradshaw, for whom nothing but greatness had been predicted, seemed on the verge entering his third pro season, and in Shanklin and Lewis he had two of football's swiftest, most sure handed targets. Flashy John "Frenchy" Fuqua, a fireplug of a running back with breakaway speed, teamed with Preston Pearson and Warren Bankston to form an infantry brigade that was at the very least adequate. Kolb, Gerry Mullins and Bruce Van Dyke anchored an accomplished offensive line, and the defense, with such head hunters as Greene, Ham and Andy Russell on hand to sting people, was on its way to becoming one of the league's best.

The NFL, like the Steelers, was undergoing some changes of its own, though, and after three games last season it became obvious that a better than "adequate" running game would be needed to take maximum advantage of the "widened field" (the result of the hash marks being moved in) and the almost universal employment of the zone defense against the pass. It was no longer possible to gobble up real estate in huge chunks at a time through the airways. Progress had to be made at a more patient, controlled rate, and while it wasn't really "three yards and a cloud of dust" football, it did require the presence of a horse in the backfield to keep those zones from laying back in expectation of the pass. Pittsburgh, even though it took Noll and company a couple of games to find out, had just such a man in Harris. He replaced the injured Pearson after three ball games, and from that point on the Pittsburgh Steelers were a great football team.

Franco's exploits are now a part of NFL history. Six consecutive Sundays of 100 yards or better on the ground, a season total of 1,055 yards overland, a record for a first year player, a spectacular catch and breathtaking touchdown gallop in the closing seconds of the playoff victory over Oakland that sent the Steelers into the AFC championship game, unanimous acclaim as the conference's rookie of the year and a nomination for the S. Rae Hickcock award as professional athlete of the year made his debut one of the most remarkable in NFL history. Statistics and records are nice to have, but they don't really tell the story of what Harris meant to the Steelers.

His crunching thrusts through the middle kept opposing defenses honest for Bradshaw's passing, and Fuqua became that much more of a threat since the Pittsburgh ground game suddenly consisted of a lot more than his quick pops into the line and dashes to the outside. It was no accident that both Frenchy and Terry enjoyed the best season of their careers in 1972.

Harris' most significant accomplishment, the Oakland game notwithstanding, lies in the fact that he got Pittsburgh the tough inside yardage all season. He was the man Bradshaw looked to in key short yardage situations, and more often than not the big rookie delivered. The Steelers hadn't had a reliable plunger who could get them the "big money" yards since John Henry Johnson was stomping through enemy lines in the early sixties. It's more than just coincidence that they never challenged for a divisional title in between Johnson's peak years and the emergence of Generalissimo Franco. They're expected to do more than just challenge for the next several seasons, though, and Harris will be one of the strong young veterans leading the way.

* * *

Pittsburgh was not the only NFL franchise that turned itself around last season after an injection of healthy young blood. Up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, once proudly dubbed "Titletown, USA" but in recent seasons a graveyard for NFL has-beens and never will bes, a host of talented newcomers joined forces with some gifted holdovers from the previous season to boost the Packers back to the top of the Central Division; a peak that had not been ascended in Titletown since the legendary Vince Lombardi took himself off the coaching lines of Lambeau Field in 1968.

The leader of the Packer resurgence was an even more unlikely candidate for the hero's mantle than Harris. Chester Marcol, a Polish-born placekicker from tiny Hillsdale College in Michigan, restored the oomph to the Green Bay kicking game that had been sorely missed since Don Chandler, the Bald Eagle, hung up his spikes after booting the Packers to three consecutive world championships in 1965-67. Again, it's more than mere coincidence that Green Bay fell from contender status after its kicking game fell apart, and no accident that the Pack regained its stature as an NFL big shot after Marcol arrived to shore up an area that had been one of Dan Devine's (and Phil Bengtson's before him) major headaches.

There was some consternation among Green Bay loyalists over Marcol's sidewinder style and lack of experience against top flight competition. Soccer style kickers, it was feared, don't boot them high enough to elude the charge of onrushing linemen, and at Hillsdale Marcol hadn't had to loft his kicks over anyone the size of Deacon Jones or Buck Buchanon. Moreover, number two draft picks aren't usually "wasted" on specialists of any nature, and even though the Pack's need for a competent placekicker had reached desperation proportions, the price for Marcol was thought to be pretty steep. To say that

continued on next page

1972 AFC ROOKIES

Vern Den Herder
Miami

Charlie Babb
Miami

Larry Ball
Miami

Mike Kadish
Miami

Jerome Barkum
New York Jets

Mike Taylor
New York Jets

Joey Jackson
New York Jets

Tom Drougas
Baltimore

Lydell Mitchell
Baltimore

Bruce Laird
Baltimore

Reggie McKenzie
Buffalo

Walt Patulski
Buffalo

Maurice Tyler
Buffalo

Tom Reynolds
New England

Jim White
New England

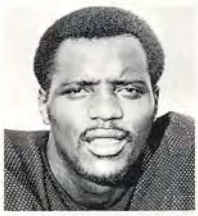
John McMakin
Pittsburgh

Gordon Gravelle
Pittsburgh

Steve Furness
Pittsburgh

Tom Darden
Cleveland

Lester Sims
Cleveland


Sherman White
Cincinnati

Tommy Casanova
Cincinnati

Willie Rogers
Houston

Guy Murdock
Houston

Mike Siani
Oakland

Cliff Branch
Oakland

Jeff Kinney
Kansas City

Larry Marshall
Kansas City

Pete Lazetich
San Diego

Bill McClard
San Diego

Riley Odoms
Denver

Tom Graham
Denver

1972 NFC ROOKIES

Herb Mul-Key
Washington

Frank Grant
Washington

Bill Thomas
Dallas

Robert Newhouse
Dallas

Jean Fugett
Dallas

Larry Jacobsen
New York Giants

John Mendenhall
New York Giants

Tom Gatewood
New York Giants

Eldridge Small
New York Giants

Bobby Moore
St. Louis

Mel Gray
St. Louis

Mark Arneson
St. Louis

Willie Buchanon
Green Bay

Leland Glass
Green Bay

Jerry Tagge
Green Bay

Jeff Siemon
Minnesota

Ed Marinaro
Minnesota

Herb Orvis
Detroit

Ken Sanders
Detroit

Lionel Antoine
Chicago

Craig Clemons
Chicago

Jim Osborne
Chicago

Roger Lawson
Chicago

Gary Kosins
Chicago

Larry Brooks
Los Angeles

Jim Bertelsen
Los Angeles

Larry McCutcheon
Los Angeles

Clarence Ellis
Atlanta

Pat Sullivan
Atlanta

Roosevelt Manning
Atlanta

Ernie Jackson
New Orleans

Joe Federspiel
New Orleans

the pressure was on him might qualify as the understatement of the year, and if it doesn't, to say that he paid off handsomely must. Marcol made his acquisition look like the biggest steal since Thomas Jefferson talked Napoleon out of the Louisiana territory, and largely because of his efforts the Packers are once again one of the most powerful and respected teams in the NFL.

Chester made good on 33 of 48 field goal attempts and tacked on 29 conversions to finish as the NFC's top scorer. His total of 128 points made him runnerup in the NFL to Roy Gerela of Pittsburgh.

The Pack never got that kind of production from even Chandler, in his peak years, and those close games that had been lost for want of a field goal or two in the previous four seasons began finding their way into the win column with monotonous regularity with Marcol on the job. He was positively uncanny from inside 30 yards, better than even money from 40-50 and strong enough and accurate enough from around midfield to make Green Bay a threat to score every time the Pack got the ball in the vicinity of the 50 yard line.

Obviously Marcol was more than Green Bay bargained for, but the Packers wound up being more than their Central Division opponents bargained for last season, as well. In the demolition derby that is the NFL, the trick is to improve one's position gradually each season and then make a run at the pot of gold that is available to the winner of the Super Bowl. The Packers, thanks to the educated toe of Chester Marcol, have their foot in the door on a Super Bowl invitation, and if he can continue to flash the form that made his rookie season such a memorable one it might not be long before Titletown, USA reasserts itself as the football capital of the world.

* * *

Harris and Marcol were by no means the only rookies who distinguished themselves last season. The class of '72 was supposed to be one of the skimpiest of recent years in terms of football talent, but as is so often the case with speculation, it didn't work out that way. Harris and Marcol were the best, or at least the most publicized, of a better than average crop of football talent, but just about every team in the NFL can point to the performance of a newcomer or two as one of the bright spots of the past season. A team-by-team analysis of the progress of the members of the Class of '72 proves this to be true.

AFC — EAST

MIAMI — It was a nucleus of seasoned old pros (Earl Morrall, Nick Buoniconti) and rugged young veterans (Larry Csonka, Mercury Morris) that carried the Dolphins to the pinnacle of the football world last season, and it's a good thing. Their rookie crop contributed absolutely zilch to the drive to the Super Bowl, and if it's possible to find fault in a 17-0 season, that would be the rub.

The best of the Miami newcomers was a dropout from the class of '71, defensive end Vern Den Herder. He was a taxi squadder in his rookie year but earned a starting berth last season and emerged as a top notch prospect. The same might one day be said for number one pick Mike Kadish of Notre Dame, but he was a huge disappointment as a rookie.

Running back Charlie Babb of Memphis State and linebacker Larry Ball of Louisville both made the club and displayed pro potential.

NEW YORK JETS — The jury's still out on this group. Jerome Barkum, a potential star at either tight end or wide receiver, reported to camp late and out of shape after a long salary hassle and never did get completely untracked. When he wants to play, which isn't all the time, he can be super.

Linebacker Mike Taylor had trouble picking up the nuances and complexities of a pro defense, but he's a hitter and is tabbed as another "can't miss" prospect. Unheralded Joey Jackson stole much of the thunder from his more talented counterparts by becoming a starter at defensive end and playing solid football.

BALTIMORE — Joe Thomas must have liked what he saw in the Colts' corral of newcomers. He kept most of them around over the winter, while just about everyone else from Baltimore's most disappointing season in history was sent packing.

Oregon's Tom Drougas saw regular duty in the offensive line and should get better, while Lydell Mitchell, Harris' Penn State buddy, came on strong at the end of the season. Sixth round pick Bruce Laird made it big as a kick returner.

BUFFALO — The Bills used several rookies on a fairly regular basis in the "Year of O.J.", but injuries forced them into doing so. In any case, guard Reggie McKenzie and defensive end Walt Patulski look like all-pro timber in the very near future, and defensive back Maurice Tyler is another blue chipper.

NEW ENGLAND — Despite suffering through a season in which just about everything that could have gone wrong managed to do so, the Pats were reluctant to give most of their newcomers much exposure. Wide receiver Tom Reynolds, when he finally got to play, looked good toward the end of the season, while defensive end Jim White and cornerback Ron Bolton earned their spurs as starters on defense.

CENTRAL

PITTSBURGH — The Steelers, continuing to draw nothing but aces in Pete Rozelle poker, had a lot more than Harris to crow about in 1972. John McMakin became a starter at tight end, while Gordon Gravelle was a reliable spare part in the offensive line. Ditto Ed Bradley at linebacker and Steve Furness in the defensive line. Joe Gilliam, who taxied between the Steelers and the cab squad all season, may yet become the first regular black quarterback in the NFL.

CLEVELAND — The Browns have given the appearance of a team aging gracefully over the past few seasons, but that's because their rookies have been paying immediate dividends. Last year was no exception. Defensive back Tom Darden was outstanding all season, while Lester Sims became a fearsome pass rusher from his defensive end post. Cornerback Clifford Brooks didn't start but played often enough and well enough to make his bosses optimistic about his future.

CINCINNATI — Sherman White, a regular and a star at defensive end, spectacular safety Tommy Casanova, cornerback Bernard Jackson and center Tom De Leone combined talents to make the Bengals' corps of newcomers among the best in the league. White and Casanova are among the NFL's brightest young starts.

HOUSTON — The Oilers, desperate for all the help they can get, got some from two unexpected sources, 12th round pick Willie Rodgers, a running back, and center Guy Murdock, tabbed in the 16th round. Top choice Greg Sampson was a slow learner but showed flashes of promise.

WEST

OAKLAND — The Raiders have rivalled the Steelers as assessors of talent over the past few seasons, and they hit the jackpot again in 1972. Mike Siani became an immediate sensation at wide receiver, while Cliff Branch may be even better once he learns to run more disciplined patterns. John Vella and Kelvin Korver provided some assistance in the offensive and defensive lines, and greatness may be in the futures of both.

KANSAS CITY — The Chiefs didn't net much to speak of from the class of '72. Number one selection Jeff Kinney was thought to possess all the tools, but slippery fingers cost him a lot of playing time. He still has potential, though. Larry Marshall, who was still around on the 15th round, gave the

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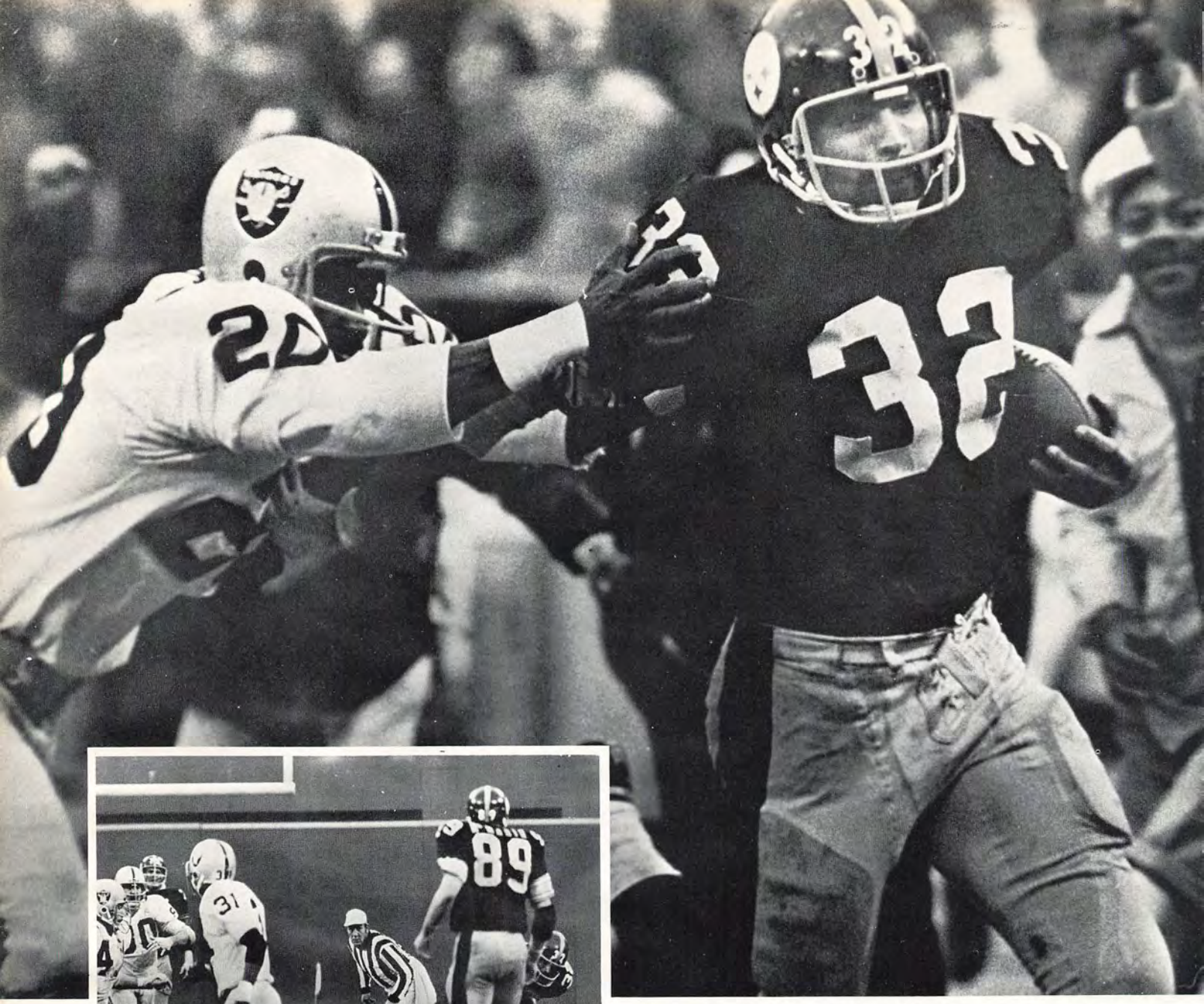
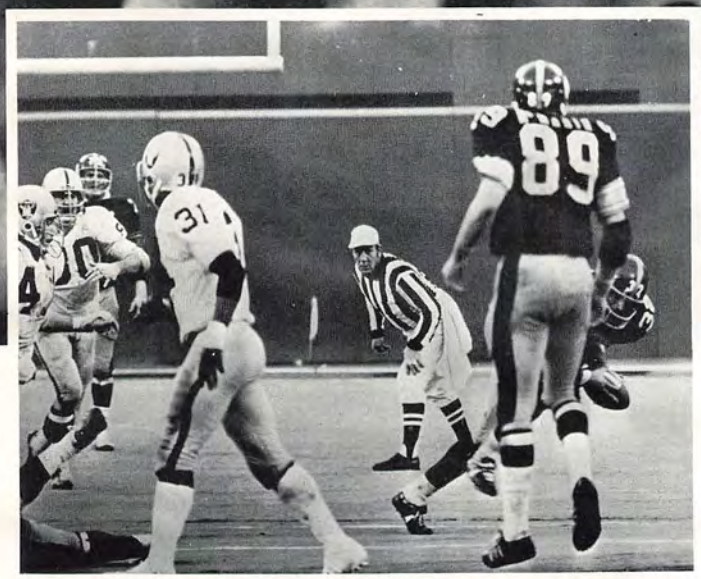




A CRUSHING POWER — *Franco Harris is the first first-year player to make an impact in a Pittsburgh football team. He became the fifth back in the history of pro football to gain over 1,000 yards on the ground in his first season and in six consecutive games he went over the 100-yard mark to tie Jim Brown's all-time NFL record. Here Harris completes a deflected pass in the playoff against Oakland to score the touchdown and win the game.*

Chiefs their most dangerous kickoff returner since the days of the Super Gnat, Noland Smith.

SAN DIEGO — The Chargers seldom started the same lineup two games in succession in a season fraught with difficulties, and the uncertain play of the rookies compounded matters. Pete Lazetich was tested and found wanting in the defensive line and at linebacker, and placekicker Bill McClard didn't impress anybody.

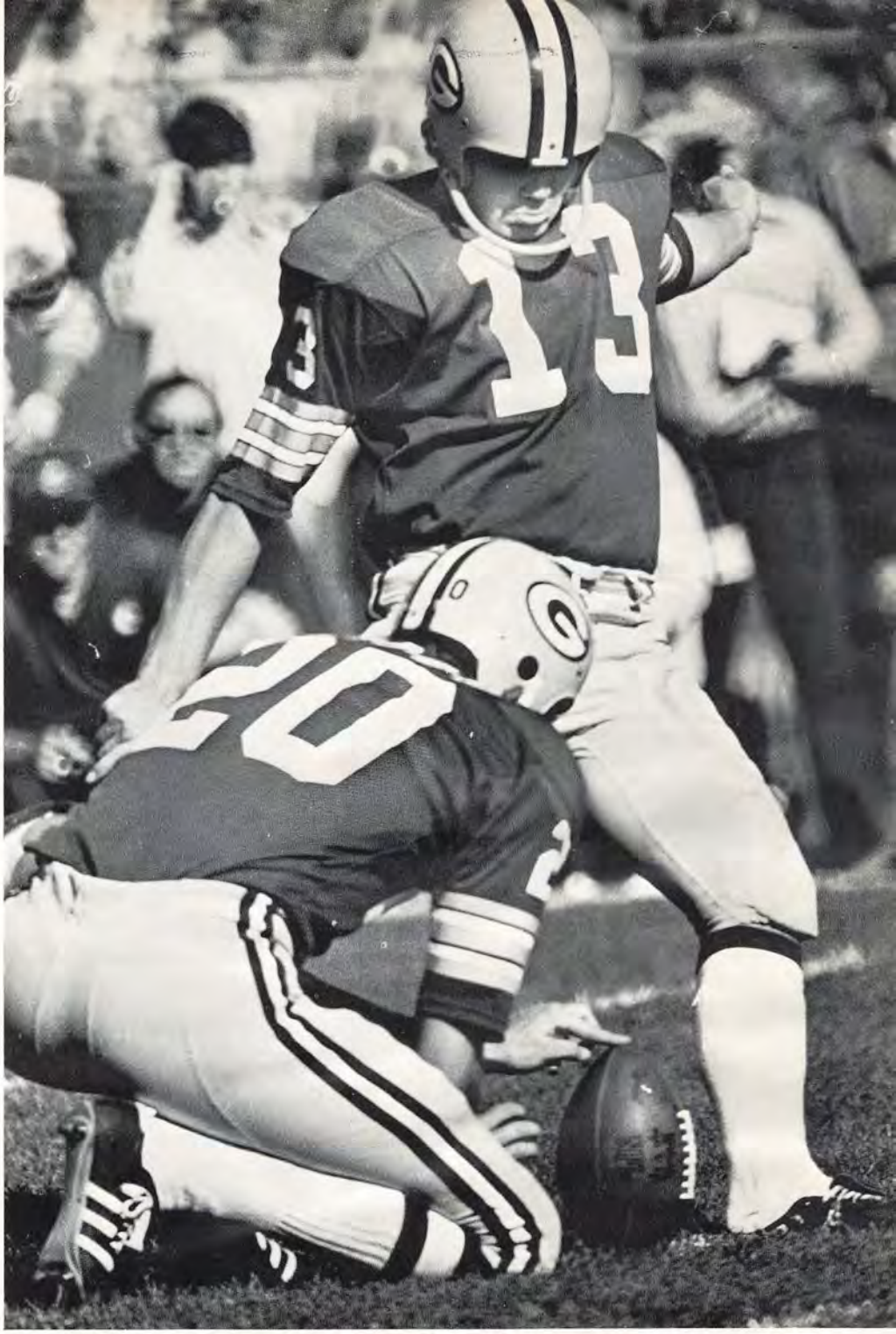
DENVER — The Broncs culled two regulars out of a crop that did not include a top pick, and that achievement made 1972 a vintage year. Big Riley Odoms looks like the heir apparent to Detroit's Charley Sanders as the NFL's premier tight end. He is a devastating blocker with enough speed to pose as a genuine deep threat, and he has the moxie to catch the ball in a crowd. Tom Graham, from whom little was expected, took over at middle linebacker and played like he'd been there all his life. John Ralston is ecstatic about the future, and Odoms and Graham are two of the reasons.

NFC — EAST

WASHINGTON — George Allen, of "the future is now" fame, generally looks upon rookies with the disdain most people reserve for a Charlie Manson. There were no signs his attitude was softening last season, although a couple of newcomers were at least invited to stick around and practice with the Skins as taxi squadders. One of them, Herb Mul-Key, was discovered in a try-out camp for free agents. He had no college experience, but displayed explosive skills while filling in for the injured Larry Brown late in the season. Another one, wide receiver Frank Grant, may have a future, but it isn't now.

DALLAS — The Cowboys have kept their 10 year old reign of excellence alive through judicious trading and drafting, but in many respects 1972 was a disappointment. Top pick Bill Thomas, a running back, was injured early and didn't contribute, but Robert Newhouse helped enough to suggest that he has a chance to make it as a regular. Tight end Jean Fugett was a pleasant surprise, but the 'Pokes went out and got themselves another tight end in the '73 draft.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Larry Jacobson, the Outland Trophy winner from Nebraska, answered his critics admirably by becoming a starter, and a good one, in his rookie year. Grambling's John Mendenhall teamed with him to shore up the defensive line, a Giant trouble area for years. Eldridge Small didn't play enough to justify his status as a number one choice, but Notre Dame's Tom Gatewood flashed promise as a wide receiver. The Giants, after some horrendous luck in the flesh market in recent years, are more than happy with the class of '72.



Marcol kicked as many FGs in one season as 9 prior kickers had kicked in 5 years.

ST. LOUIS — Flashy Bobby Moore came on strong as a wide receiver toward the end of the season, and with Mel Gray at the flank opposite him the Cards have two of the most dangerous deep threats in the business. Mark Arneson, after a harrowing experience with the grim reaper (he was almost cut) took over at middle linebacker and looked very good.

PHILADELPHIA — It takes at least four years to develop a sound pro quarterback, it is said, so the Eagles got the jump on that timetable by playing John Reaves regularly. He had his moments, and looks like a comer. Running back Po James was a pleasant surprise, finishing as Philly's leading ground gainer. He'll get better, as will John Bunting, who gave a good account of himself in the defensive line.

CENTRAL

GREEN BAY — Marcol alone made the '72 draft a bonanza for the Packers, but Dan Devine did even better. A lot better. Willie Buchanon stepped in at cornerback and played like he'd invented the position; a big reason why Green Bay's porous 1971 pass defense became the league's best in '72. Willie may be one of the best around at man-

continued next page

Chester Marcol, the artillery man of field goal kickers, wound up with the NFL's best scoring effort of 128 points.

to-man coverage, and the zone didn't give him any problems either. Leland Glass was a starter at wide receiver, and while he didn't exactly set the NFL on fire, he has potential. Jerry Tagge, with a valuable year of experience under his belt, is expected to challenge incumbent Scott Hunter for the quarterback job, and more than a few interested parties insist he'll take over. All in all, the Pack's rookie crop was the equal of any in the league, and that includes Pittsburgh.

MINNESOTA — The Vikes, as everybody knows by now, found some alarming holes in their once impregnable armor last season, and they might have been worse if a couple of rookies hadn't paid off handsomely. Foremost among them was Jeff Siemon, who looked, at times, like a future All-Pro at middle linebacker. Running back Ed Marinaro found out in a hurry that the NFL wasn't the Ivy League, but he showed that he was tough enough and durable enough to play regularly and do well.

DETROIT — Herb Orvis, expected to shore up the Lions' feeble pass rush, damaged an ankle in the all-star camp and was never right all season. He has to be classified a major disappointment, although he may yet develop. Ken Sanders, a number three pick, made the team but didn't play often enough to distinguish himself.

CHICAGO — Lionel Antoine, injured all season, didn't show anything, but the Bears are still counting on him. Craig Clemons showed only that he has a lot to learn about playing pass defense in the NFL. Jim Osborne, a seventh round pick, came out of nowhere and earned a starting position in the defensive line, and running backs Roger Lawson and Gary Kosins both made contributions. The best Chicago rookie, though, was the one that got away, Alabama's Johnny Musso; an old story that hadn't been repeated since the NFL-AFL merger.

WEST

SAN FRANCISCO — The 49ers have been doing it with young people almost exclusively for the past few seasons, and it's a good thing. Like Miami, San Fran didn't benefit much, if at all, from the Class of '72. Terry Beasley was hurt most of the year, and neither Jean Barrett nor Allen Dunbar could crack the 49er lineup. Ralph McGill helped out on punt and kickoff returns, and Windlan Hall was used as a spare defensive back, but overall the San Francisco rookie delegation was not up to the standards of the previous few years.

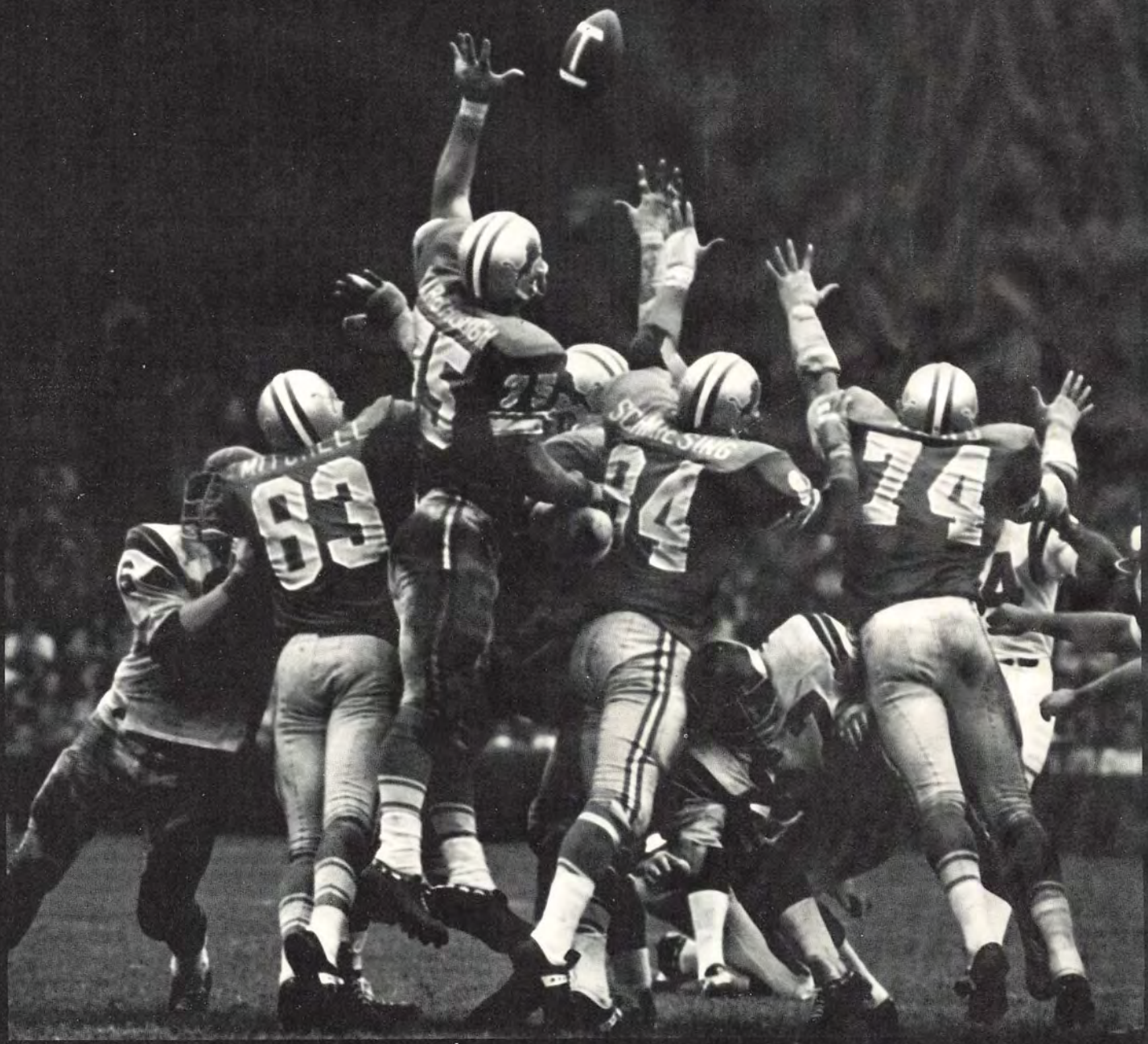
LOS ANGELES — The Rams came out smelling like a rose, considering they entered the flesh market without a top draft choice. Larry Brooks played well enough to permit LA to part with Coy Bacon, an All-Pro of recent vintage, and running backs Jim Bertelsen and Larry McCutcheon made Willie Ellison excess baggage. No complaints here from new coach Chuck Knox.

ATLANTA — Clarence Ellis, who became a starter in the secondary, was the only Falcon rookie to gain regular employment. Heisman trophy winner Pat Sullivan collected a healthy supply of splinters, but Roosevelt Manning's play in the offensive line suggests that he may have a future.

NEW ORLEANS — Like Buffalo, the Saints were forced into giving a host of freshmen a baptism of fire by necessity rather than choice. Royce Smith made quite a name for himself at guard, and defensive back Ernie Jackson looks like a star of the not too distant future. Joe Federspiel made an impression in the offensive line.

A wise man once said that the best thing about rookies is that they one day become veterans. That may have been the case long ago, but it can hardly be said to apply to such spectacular newcomers as Harris, Marcol, Odoms, Buchanon and others. They made their mark at the first opportunity, and it was because of them that coaches say their prayers at night in hopes that the Class of '73 will prove to be just as precocious. ■

SPORTS FOCUS TEAMS SECTION



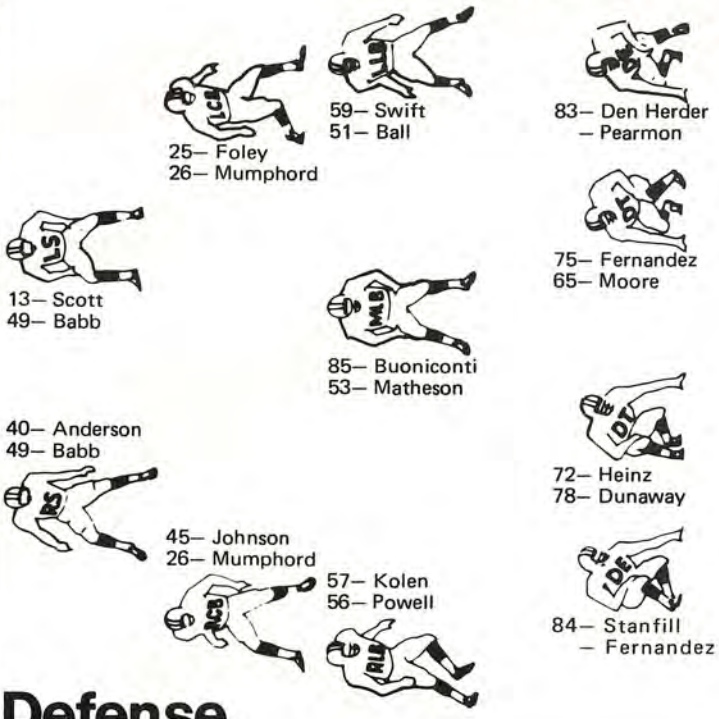
GAME 14

Miami

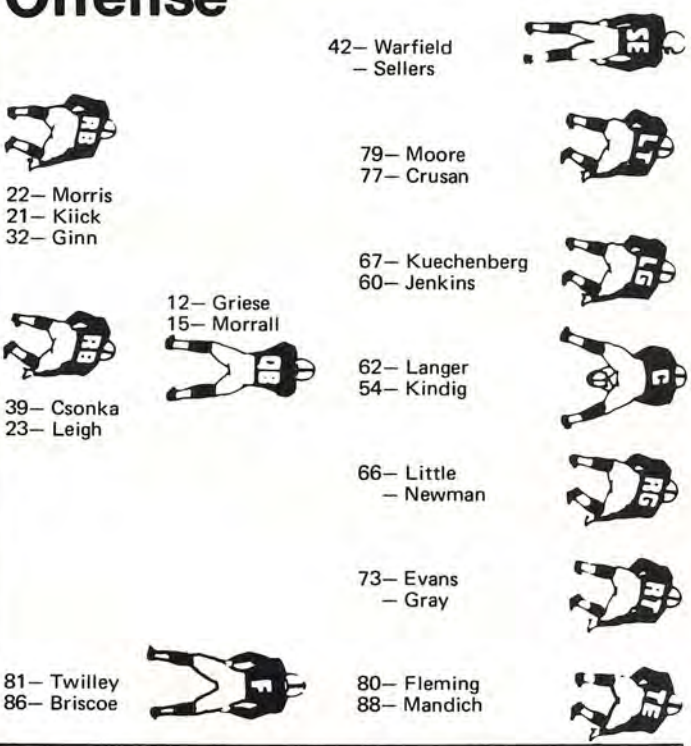
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
1	Garo Yepremian	K	5-8	175	29	6
12	Bob Griese	QB	6-1	190	28	7
13	Jake Scott	DB	6-0	188	28	4
15	Earl Morrall	QB	6-2	210	39	18
20	Larry Seiple	TE-P	6-0	214	28	7
21	Jim Kiick	RB	5-11	214	27	6
22	Mercury Morris	RB	5-10	190	26	5
23	Charles Leigh	RB	5-11	206	27	5
25	Tim Foley	DB	6-0	194	24	4
26	Lloyd Mumphord	DB	5-10	176	26	5
32	Hubert Ginn	RB	5-10	185	26	4
39	Larry Csonka	RB	6-2	237	26	6
40	Dick Anderson	DB	6-2	196	27	6
42	Paul Warfield	WR	6-0	188	30	10
45	Curtis Johnson	DB	6-1	196	25	4
48	Henry Stuckey	DB	6-0	180	23	1
49	Charles Babb	DB	6-0	190	23	2
51	Larry Ball	LB	6-6	225	24	2
53	Bob Matheson	LB	6-4	235	28	7
54	Howard Kindig	T-C	6-6	260	32	7
56	Jesse Powell	LB	6-2	220	26	5
57	Mike Kolen	LB	6-2	220	25	4
59	Doug Swift	LB	6-3	226	25	4
60	Al Jenkins	G-T	6-2	245	27	4
62	Jim Langer	C	6-2	250	25	4
65	Maulty Moore	DT	6-5	265	27	2
66	Larry Little	G	6-1	265	27	7
67	Bob Kuechenberg	G	6-2	248	25	4
68	Mike Kadish	DT	6-5	265	23	1
72	Bob Heinz	DT-DE	6-6	265	26	5
73	Norm Evans	T	6-5	250	30	9
75	Manny Fernandez	DT	6-2	250	27	6
77	Doug Crusan	T	6-4	250	27	6
78	Jim Dunaway	DT	6-4	277	32	11
79	Wayne Moore	T	6-6	265	27	4
80	Marv Fleming	TE	6-4	232	31	11
81	Howard Twilley	WR	5-10	185	29	8
82	Otto Stowe	WR	6-2	188	24	3
83	Vern DenHerder	DE	6-6	250	24	3
84	Bill Stanfill	DE	6-5	250	26	5
85	Nick Buoniconti	LB	5-11	220	32	12
86	Marlin Briscoe	WR	5-11	178	27	5
88	Jim Mandich	TE	6-2	224	25	4
89	Karl Noonan	WR	6-2	198	29	7
	Ron Sellers	WR	6-4	205	25	5

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

In cooperation with the Michigan State Police, The American Legion has sponsored a Student Trooper Program for five consecutive years. The program is designed to teach Michigan youth to respect and appreciate law enforcement and to possibly launch them on a career in that field. This program introduces young adults to the various phases of law enforcement training at the Michigan State Police Training Center in East Lansing, Michigan.

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

S-T-U-D-E-N-T
T-R-O-O-P-E-R
P-R-O-G-R-A-M

Dolphins Prospectus

There are those who have taken a look at the Miami Dolphins' exploits in 1972 -- a perfect 17 - 0 season and a Super Bowl Championship -- and asked the obvious question: What are the targets for 1973?

It is fact, of course, that the Dolphins of 1972 became the youngest team in NFL history to win a Super Bowl and became the first team ever to ride through an entire season undefeated.

Nevertheless, there are targets -- beginning with a return to the Super Bowl, a feat that has not been achieved since the Green Bay Packers accomplished it the first two years of pro football's premier event. Another obvious target is a third consecutive American Conference crown.

Finally, there is one victory streak that the Dolphins were unable to exceed last season that is within their grasp this year -- the record for most consecutive regular season triumphs over a period of more than one year.

The Dolphins currently are tied with Los Angeles - San Diego (1960 - 61) for third place with 15 successive victories, having won all 14 during the 1972 season and the final game of 1971. The targets are 16 victories by the Chicago Bears (1941 - 42) and 17 victories by the Bears (1933 - 34).

The team that will be challenging those streaks figures to be virtually the same as the one that marched through the 1972 season with an unblemished record.

If there is an area on the team which needs strengthening it would be in the defensive backfield which Don Shula says, "We're a little thin if we get somebody hurt in the defensive backfield. Last year we gambled and had a rookie (Charley Babb) as the backup safety. This year, with Babb in his second season we're going to feel a lot better about our deep people."

As for the rest of the positions the team is fairly solid. The Dolphins are offensively very strong with a great deal of depth at every position. The Dolphins did pick up early draft picks who they hope will compete for some of the No. 1 positions.

All in all the Dolphins are the team to beat. Their only real threat is the New York Jets who they must beat twice in order to ice the conference championship this season. However the Dolphins must face five 1972 playoff contenders in 1973.

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	14-0-0
Divisional Standing	1
Divisional W-L-T	8-0-0
Conference W-L-T	11-0-0
Interconference W-L-T	3-0-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	1
NFL Defensive Ranking	1
Average Yardage Differential	+123.6
Points/Points Allowed	385/171
Quarter 1	94/36
Quarter 2	108/47
Quarter 3	98/29
Quarter 4	85/59
Coach	Don Shula
Coach's Pro Record	105-30-5

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.557
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	42-25-3
Divisional Favorite	Miami
Coach	Don Shula
Coach's Pro Record	105-30-5

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Chuck Bradley,C,	Oregon
Leon Gray,T,	Jackson State
Bo Rather,WR,	Michigan
Don Strock,QB,	Virginia Tech
Dave McCurry,DB,	Iowa State

Griese returned for the Super Bowl to put it all together.

GAME THIRTEEN—ONE YEAR AGO
Detroit 21 at Buffalo 21

THE GAME: It wasn't the tie as much as it was the Packer victory in Minnesota that eliminated the Lions from the Central race this week . . . Meanwhile, back in rainy Buffalo, the Lions salvaged a tie with the upset-minded Bills when Greg Landry tossed a 31-yard TD pass to Ron Jessie with 2:00 remaining . . . The other 2 scores also came on Landry passes — 1 to Earl McCullouch, his 1st of the year, and the other to Nick Eddy, also his 1st after being released just days before the game from a 2-year sentence to the taxi squad . . .

THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Buffalo
First downs	14	23
Yards rushing	116	187
Yards passing	144	231
Total yards	260	418
Passes	8-25-0	18-32-0
Punts	5-40	3-37
Fumbles lost	0	3
Yards penalized	20	61

Detroit	0	7	7	7	21
Buffalo	0	7	7	7	21

Rushing — Detroit: Landry, 9-46; Farr, 9-22; Zofko, 6-21. Buffalo: Simpson, 27-116; Braxton, 9-31. Receiving — Detroit: Farr, 4-54; Jessie, 2-51. Buffalo: Hill, 8-129; Chandler, 3-71; Simpson, 3-17. Passing — Detroit: Landry, 8-25-0, 150 yards. Buffalo: Shaw, 18-32-0, 239 yards.

GAME FOURTEEN—ONE YEAR AGO
Detroit 34 at Los Angeles 17

THE GAME: This one was about as important as an exhibition game to these 2 1972 also-rans . . . The Lions' win was highlighted by an 88-yard TD interception return by Rudy Redmond to turn the tide of battle at 1 point . . . In a more conventional manner, QB Greg Landry connected with TE Charlie Sanders for 2 passing scores . . . The defense, so impotent during most of the season, came up with several big plays, including a goal-line stand . . . DE Larry Hand, who was fighting for all-Pro status, also sparkled . . . He forced a Roman Gabriel fumble on a quarterback sack and also stopped the Rams 1-yard short on a 1st down try at the Lions' 14 with 5:00 remaining.

THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Los Angeles
First downs	24	20
Yards rushing	157	119
Yards passing	213	214
Total yards	370	333
Passes	18-24-1	21-35-1
Punts	2-40	2-42
Fumbles lost	0	1
Yards penalized	10	44

Detroit	3	14	7	10	34
Los Angeles	3	7	7	0	17

Rushing — Detroit: Landry, 6-56; A. Taylor, 12-52; Triplett, 13-35. Los Angeles: Bertelsen, 6-36; Smith, 5-35; Thomas, 9-25. Receiving — Detroit: Sanders, 7-76; Jessie, 6-84; L. Walton, 3-48. Los Angeles: Bertelsen, 7-79; Josephson, 5-81; Rentzel, 2-32. Passing — Detroit: Landry, 18-24-1, 250 yards. Los Angeles: Gabriel, 21-35-1, 221 yards.

GAME 12

St. Louis

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
15	Gary Cuozzo	QB	6-0	195	32	11
16	Tim Van Galder	QB	6-1	190	29	2
17	Jim Hart	QB	6-2	200	29	8
20	Miller Farr	DB	6-1	190	30	9
22	Roger Wehrli	DB	6-1	195	25	5
23	John Roland	RB	6-2	215	30	8
25	Jim Bakken	K	6-0	195	32	12
28	Bobby Moore	WR	6-2	210	23	2
31	Chuck Beatty	DB	6-2	205	26	5
32	Leo Hayden	RB	6-0	210	25	3
33	Larry Willingham	DB	6-1	190	24	3
37	Jeff Allen	DB	5-11	190	25	2
38	Leon Burns	RB	6-1	235	28	3
40	Eric Washington	DB	6-2	190	23	2
43	Norm Thompson	DB	6-1	175	28	3
44	Donny Anderson	RB-P	6-3	210	30	8
48	Craig Baynham	RB	6-1	205	29	7
50	Wayne Mulligan	C	6-2	245	26	5
53	Jamie Rivers	LB	6-2	235	27	6
54	Tom Banks	C	6-1	240	25	3
55	Dave Bradley	G	6-3	245	26	5
57	Mark Arneson	LB	6-2	220	23	2
58	Terry Miller	LB	6-2	225	27	4
61	Roger Finnie	G	6-3	245	27	5
62	Mike Taylor	T	6-5	245	28	6
64	Bob Young	G	6-2	260	31	8
65	Chuck Hutchison	G	6-3	240	24	4
66	Conrad Dobler	G	6-3	250	22	2
67	Larry Stallings	LB	6-2	230	31	11
71	John Richardson	DT	6-2	250	28	7
72	Dan Dierdorf	G	6-4	265	25	3
73	Ernie McMillan	T	6-6	255	35	12
74	Fred Heron	DT	6-4	260	28	8
75	Bob Rowe	DT	6-4	260	28	7
76	Scott Palmer	DT	6-3	245	25	3
78	Ron Yankowski	DE	6-5	245	26	3
80	Jim McFarland	TE	6-5	225	25	4
81	Jackie Smith	TE	6-4	235	33	11
82	Martin Imhoe	DE	6-6	255	23	2
84	Walker Gillette	WR	6-5	200	26	4
85	Mel Gray	WR	5-9	170	24	3
86	Don Brumm	DE	6-4	245	31	11
87	Jeff Staggs	LB	6-2	240	29	7
88	Fred Hyatt	WR	6-3	210	27	6
89	Tom Beckman	DE	6-5	250	22	2

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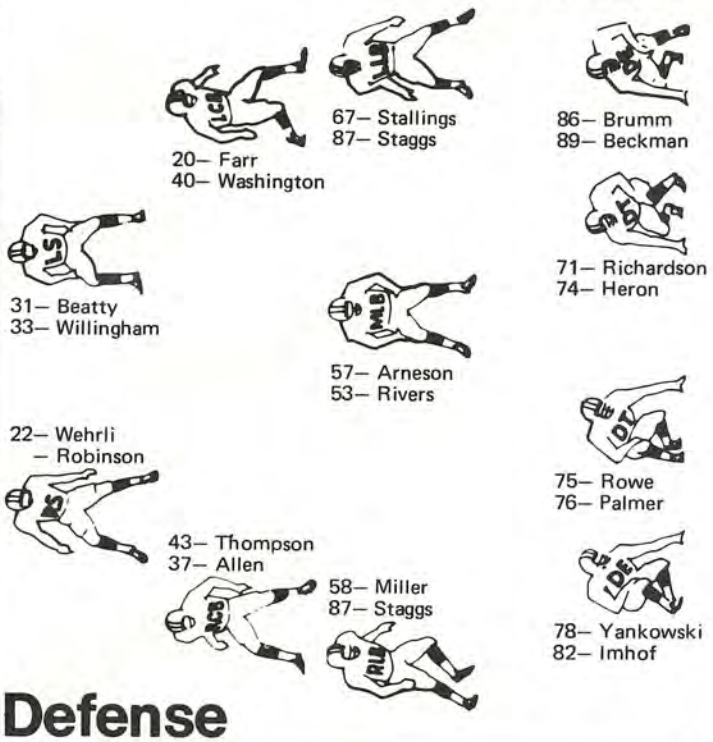
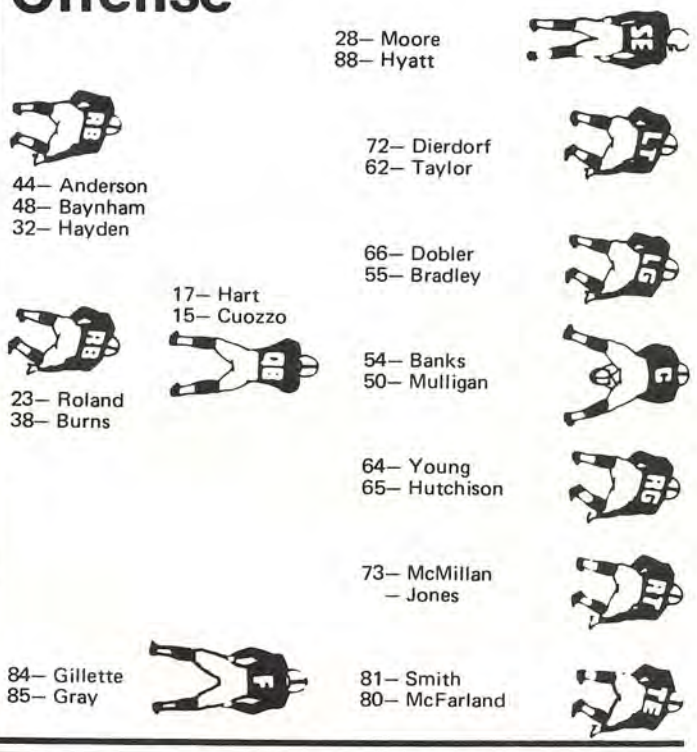
Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion's primary concern in all of its efforts has been the adjustment of veterans to civilian life. This effort has been in cooperation with various government services, business groups and other civic organizations. The American Legion goal has been to assure the veteran of a satisfying return to civilian life.

Cardinals Prospectus

The football Cardinals move into 1973---under new head coach Don Coryell---hopeful of regaining winning ways in a division that has rapidly become perhaps the toughest in the National Football League.

The 48-year old Coryell inherits a team that has suffered 4-9-1 records in each of the past two seasons. To improve, the Big Red definitely will need to become more competitive in the rugged five-team NFC Eastern Division --- in which its two top teams, Dallas and Washington, met last year for the NFC championship.

Offensively, three quarterbacks -- Jim Hart, Tim Van Galder and Gary Cuozzo -- started at various times last season, but it was Hart who guided the Big Red to its two season-ending victories and thus enters as the leading candidate for 1973. Early year injuries played havoc with the Cardinals' offensive line in 1972, but by season's end considerable progress had been made up front.

Defensively, the Big Red will be looking for improvement from its line, and it could be coming. An impressive rookie crop is headed by first round draft choice Dave Butz, who could enter the starting picture at either end or tackle. He is joined by fellow rookies in an attempt to bolster a badly sagging line.

A rebuilding job lies ahead in the secondary, where the Cardinals must replace perennial All-Pro safety Larry Wilson who retired last year after 13 record-setting seasons with the Big Red. Despite Wilson's departure, the Cardinals still have some talented backs, led by Roger Wehrli, Miller Farr, and Norm Thompson.

The direction outlined by head coach Don Coryell, "We want to become a winning football team, and one obvious key to doing this will be becoming more of an offensive football team. Defense is very important in this league, but I also believe in scoring. We want to attack the defense and throw the football."

If the Cardinals are able to overcome their early season injuries and offensive inconsistencies the Cardinals could be a coming power.

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	4-9-1
Divisional Standing	4
Divisional W-L-T	1-6-1
Conference W-L-T	3-7-1
Interconference W-L-T	1-2-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	25
NFL Defensive Ranking	25
Average Yardage Differential	−105.1
Points/Points Allowed	193/303
Quarter 1	20/36
Quarter 2	79/92
Quarter 3	56/75
Quarter 4	38/100
Coach	Bob Hollway
Coach's Pro Record	8-18-2

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.575
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	29-36-5
Divisional Favorite	Washington
Coach	Don Coryell
Coach's Pro Record	0-0-0

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Dave Butz,DT,	Purdue
Gary Keithley,QB,	Texas—El Paso
Fred Sturt,G,	Bowling Green
Terry Metcalf,RB,	Long Beach State
Tom Brahaney,C,	Oklahoma

A healthier Cardinal defensive unit that gang tackles like this is needed in '73.

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ATACO

Specialists in metal stampings and fabrications

GRAFTON WISCONSIN 53024

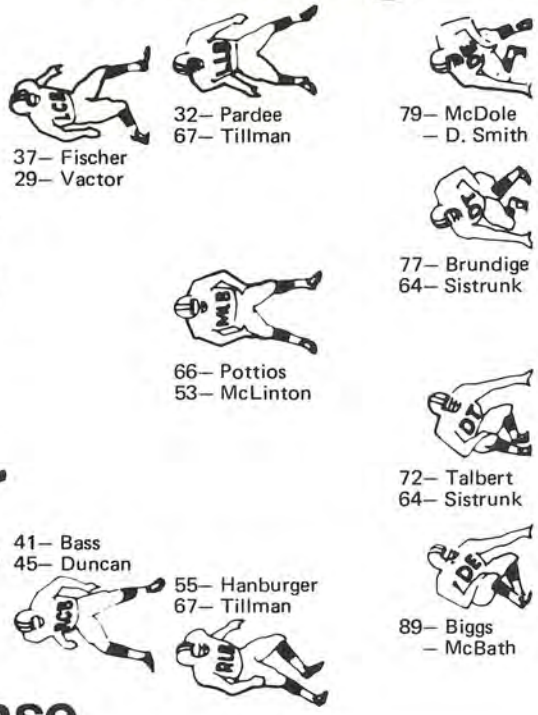
GAME 11

Washington

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
4	Mike Bragg	P	5-11	186	25	5
5	Curt Knight	K	6-2	190	29	4
	Mike McBath	DE	6-4	251	27	6
	Donnell Smith	DE	6-4	245	24	2
9	Sonny Jurgensen	QB	6-0	203	37	17
	John Spilis	WR	6-3	205	25	4
	Charles Williams	WR	6-3	210	25	2
17	Billy Kilmer	QB	6-0	204	32	11
	Coleman Zeno	WR	6-4	210	26	2
	Ken Houston	DB	6-3	196	29	7
22	Roosevelt Taylor	S	5-11	186	34	12
23	Brig Owens	S	5-11	190	29	7
24	Clarence Williams	DB	6-3	194	30	9
25	Mike Hull	RB	6-3	220	27	5
26	Bob Brunet	RB	6-1	205	26	4
28	Herb Mul-Key	RB	6-0	190	22	1
29	Ted Vactor	CB	6-0	185	28	4
31	Charley Harraway	RB	6-2	215	27	7
32	Jack Pardee	LB	6-2	225	36	15
37	Pat Fischer	CB	5-9	170	32	12
41	Mike Bass	CB	6-0	190	27	5
42	Charley Taylor	WR	6-2	210	30	9
43	Larry Brown	RB	5-11	195	25	4
45	Speedy Duncan	S	5-10	180	30	9
48	Jon Jaqua	S	6-0	190	24	3
53	Harold McLinton	LB	6-2	235	25	4
55	Chris Hanburger	LB	6-2	218	31	8
56	Len Hauss	C	6-2	235	30	9
58	George Burman	C	6-3	255	29	7
60	John Wilbur	G	6-3	251	29	7
62	Ray Schoenke	G-T	6-4	250	31	9
63	Mitch Johnson	T	6-4	250	30	7
64	Manny Sistrunk	DT	6-5	265	25	3
66	Myron Pottios	LB	6-2	232	33	12
67	Rusty Tillman	LB	6-2	230	26	3
72	Diron Talbert	DT	6-5	255	28	6
73	Paul Laaveg	G	6-4	250	23	3
75	Terry Hermeling	T	6-5	255	26	3
76	Walter Rock	T	6-5	255	30	10
77	Bill Brundige	DT	6-5	270	23	3
79	Ron McDole	DE	6-4	265	32	12
80	Roy Jefferson	WR	6-2	195	28	8
82	Jimmie Jones	DE	6-5	215	25	4
87	Jerry Smith	TE	6-3	208	29	8
89	Verlon Biggs	DE	6-4	275	29	8

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



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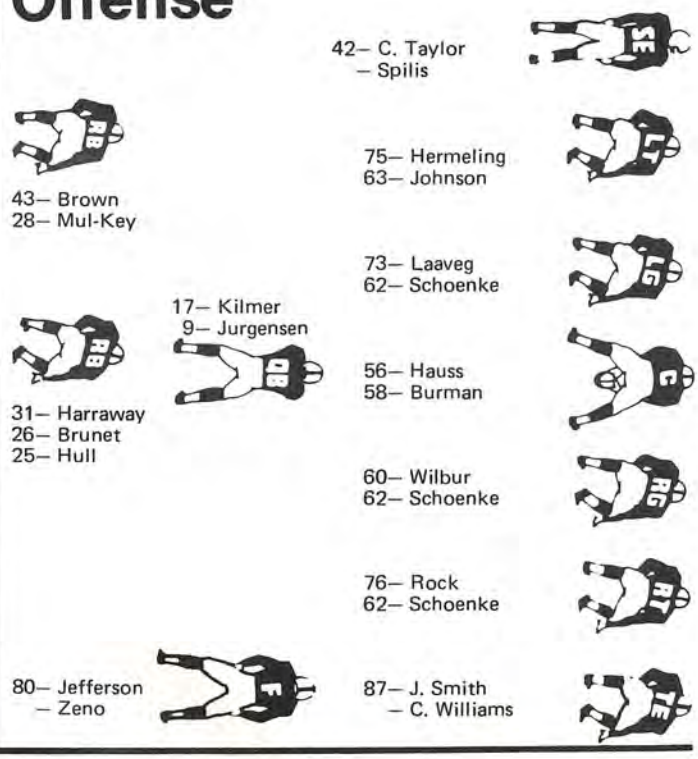


IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Baseball is entering its 48th successful season. Thousands of teenage boys have played Legion Baseball. Al Kaline, Mickey Lolich, Johnny Bench, Brooks Robinson and Rollie Fingers are current stars that graduated from this program to fame. Promoting Citizenship, Sportsmanship and Teamplay.

Redskins Prospectus

A World Championship game in just two years. The most victories, 11, in the 36-year history of the Washington Redskins.

This is what Redskins Head Coach George Allen has accomplished in his brief two years directing the fortunes of the Redskins. The phenomenal turnabout with a team that had only one winning season during the previous 15 years before he took over won for him "Coach of the Year" honors both years.

It will be a veteran offensive until returning for the 1973 campaign. As was the case before the start of last season, Allen is certain of the services of his quarterback of the past two seasons Billy Kilmer, but not of the veteran Sonny Jurgensen.

Overall offensively, the Redskins ranked fifth, with a sixth place rating in both rushing and passing. They had a total offense of 4275 yards, 2082 rushing and 2193 passing. This was 305.4 per game; 148.7 rushing and 156.6 passing.

The Redskins can claim to have a pair of the League's top running backs. Larry Brown and Charley Harraway are not only fine runners, but top blockers and pass receivers. Along with Brown and Harraway, Allen can call on Bob Brunet and Mike Hull, along with Herb Mul-key who emerged last year as a rookie out of Allen's free agent tryout camp.

It will be another veteran group up front that has been giving the Redskins the fine running game and fine pass protection. Last year, Kilmer was sacked only 9 times and Jurgensen twice.

The defense had 35 "sacks" in 1972 after 36 in 1971. As they lined up in 1971, the '72 "front four" remained intact with Ron McDole and Verlon Biggs at the ends and Manuel Sistrunk and Diron Talbert, the tackles. Bill Brundige came on strong and was used a great deal to spell Sistrunk. At the close of the season, he was a starter.

The secondary was one of the most respected in pro football. This foursome is composed of real professional veterans. Cornerbacks Mike Bass and Pat Fischer are two of the most highly regarded corners in all of football. With strong safety Brig Owens, they have been playing together for four years.

As George Allen puts it, "I know we are going to have another fine football team and continue to win. Our goal for 1973 is to return to the Super Bowl and win it."

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	11-3-0
Divisional Standing	1
Divisional W-L-T	7-1-0
Conference W-L-T	10-1-0
Interconference W-L-T	1-2-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	11
NFL Defensive Ranking	4
Average Yardage Differential	+48.6
Points/Points Allowed	336/218
Quarter 1	30/58
Quarter 2	105/56
Quarter 3	92/43
Quarter 4	109/61
Coach	George Allen
Coach's Pro Record	69-24-5

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.464
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	38-29-3
Divisional Favorite	Washington
Coach	George Allen
Coach's Pro Record	69-24-5

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Charles Cantrell,G,	Lamar
Mike Hancock,TE,	Idaho State
Rick Galbos,RB,	Ohio State
Eddie Sheats,LB,	Kansas
Ken Stone,DB,	Vanderbilt

Larry Brown demonstrates why it was the year of the running back.

GAME ELEVEN—ONE YEAR AGO
New York Jets 20 at Detroit 37

THE GAME: Victory will always be the best bromide for Turkey Day football in Detroit . . . The Lions helped themselves to a piece of 1st place as well . . . Surprisingly, the running backs dominated the action in a game with 2 QBs like Joe Namath and Greg Landry . . . Altie Taylor had his best day ever while 2 Jets, Cliff McClain and John Riggins, ran for over 100 each . . . A 3rd quarter defensive lapse and an offensive logginess let the Jets tie it at 20 . . . Landry then sparked the deciding 4th quarter surge . . . After 15 years, it was Wayne Walker Day but it was not Steve Owens' . . . He pulled a hamstring and was lost indefinitely.

THE STATISTICS:	New York	Detroit
First downs	19	19
Yards rushing	229	260
Yards passing	165	125
Total yards	394	385
Passes	9-23-1	6-18-0
Punts	3-35	4-41
Fumbles lost	0	0
Yards penalized	56	34

New York	0	10	10	0	20
Detroit	3	17	0	17	37

Rushing— New York: McClain, 10-121; Riggins, 24-105. Detroit: Taylor, 15-123; Farr, 9-67; Landry, 9-41; Owens 8-29. Receiving — New York: Bell, 3-19; Caster, 2-52; Maynoard, 2-38; McClain, 1-44. Detroit: Walton, 3-72; Sanders, 2-52. Passing — New York: Namath, 9-22-1, 165 yards; McClain, 0-1-0, 0 yards. Detroit: Landry, 6-18-0, 125 yards.

GAME TWELVE—ONE YEAR AGO
Detroit 7 at Green Bay 33

THE GAME: A season's worth of hope went out the window in a shocking and embarassing loss to the young Packers in the frigid environs of Lambeau Field . . . The Lions made, or in some cases the Packers clearly forced, a gut-twisting total of 6 Detroit turnovers . . . The capitalistic Green Bay squad converted 4 of the miscues into 24 points . . . Only a 29-yard Bill Munson to Ron Jessie TD pass with :03 left averted a shutout . . . The Lions definitely missed the injured RB Steve Owens . . .

THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Green Bay
First downs	6	19
Yards rushing	27	234
Yards passing	162	76
Total yards	189	310
Passes	11-23-3	8-15-0
Punts	5-40	1-35
Fumbles lost	3	1
Yards penalized	20	50

Detroit	0	0	0	7	7
Green Bay	9	14	7	3	33

Rushing — Detroit: A. Taylor, 4-12; Zovko, 1-7; Farr, 5-6. Green Bay: Brockington, 25-86; P. Williams, 11-57; Lane, 11-48; Kopay, 5-30. Receiving — Detroit: Jessie, 2-33; Taylor, 2-21; Zovko, 2-14; Farr, 2-9. Green Bay: Brockington, 2-12; Kopay, 2-10; Lammons, 1-19. Passing — Detroit: Munson, 5-11-3, 68 yards; Munson, 6-10-0, 105 yards. Green Bay: Hunter, 6-13-0, 67 yards; Tagge, 2-2-0, 23 yards.

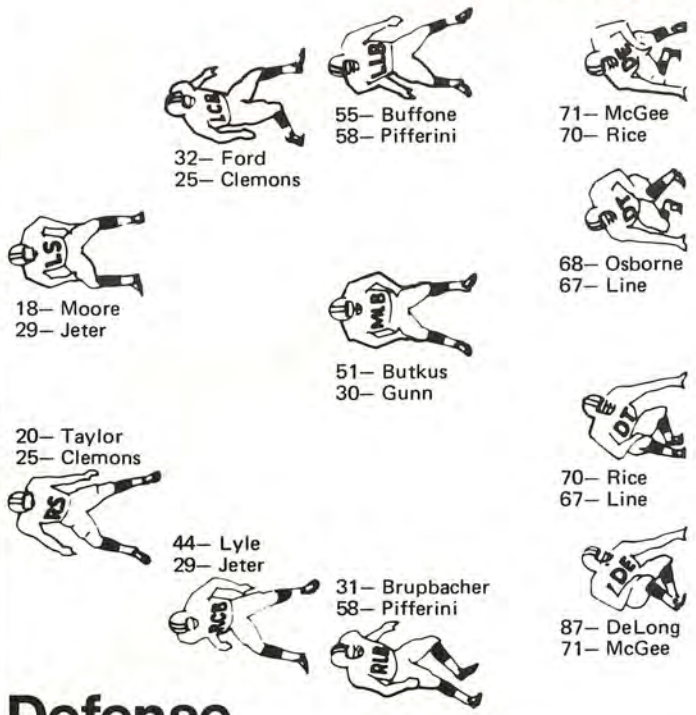
GAMES 10&13

Chicago

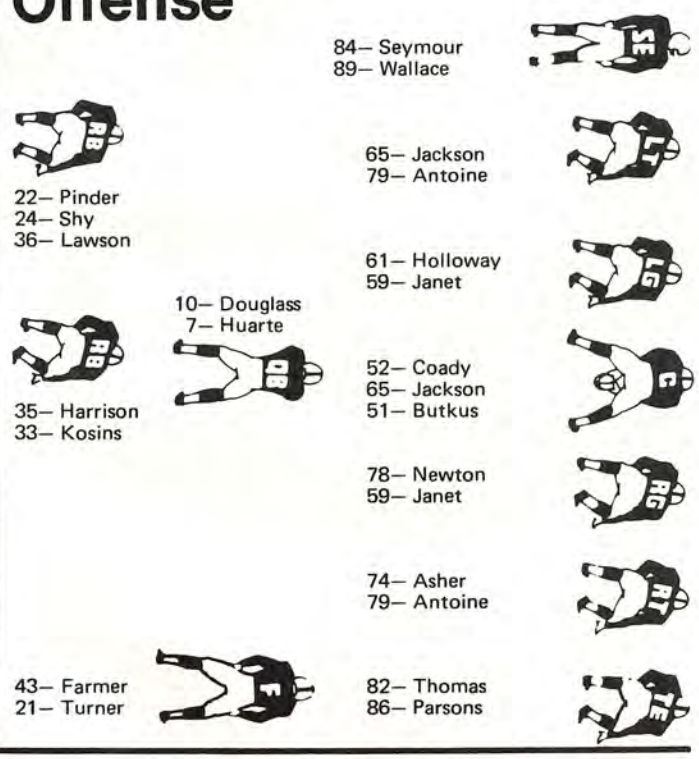
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
7	John Huarte	QB	6-0	185	30	7
10	Bobby Douglass	QB	6-4	225	26	5
18	Jerry Moore	S	6-3	208	24	3
20	Joe Taylor	CB	6-1	200	32	7
21	Cecil Turner	WR	5-10	176	29	6
22	Cyril Pinder	RB	6-2	210	26	5
24	Don Shy	RB	6-1	210	27	7
25	Craig Clemons	CB	5-11	187	24	2
	Carl Garrett	RB	5-11	210	25	5
	Craig Cotton	TE	6-4	210	25	5
29	Bob Jeter	CB	6-1	200	36	11
30	Jimmy Gunn	LB	6-1	220	24	4
31	Ross Brupbacher	LB	6-2	215	25	4
32	Charlie Ford	CB	6-3	185	25	3
33	Gary Kosins	RB	6-1	215	24	2
35	Jim Harrison	RB	6-4	235	24	3
36	Roger Lawson	RB	6-2	215	23	2
38	Robert Holmes	RB	5-9	221	27	6
43	George Farmer	WR	6-4	214	25	4
44	Garry Lyle	S	6-2	198	27	6
49	Joe Moore	RB	6-1	205	24	2
51	Dick Butkus	LB	6-3	245	30	9
52	Rich Coady	C	6-3	245	28	3
55	Doug Buffone	LB	6-3	230	29	8
58	Bob Pifferini	LB	6-2	226	23	2
59	Ernie Janet	G	6-4	250	24	2
61	Glen Holloway	G	6-3	250	24	4
65	Randy Jackson	T	6-5	250	29	7
67	Bill Line	DT	6-7	260	24	2
68	Jim Osborne	DT	6-3	250	23	2
70	Andy Rice	DT	6-2	268	32	8
71	Tony McGee	DE	6-4	250	24	3
74	Bob Asher	T	6-5	250	25	3
75	Dave Hale	DT	6-8	255	26	4
76	Bill Staley	DT	6-3	250	26	5
78	Bob Newton	G	6-4	250	24	3
79	Lionel Antoine	T	6-6	255	23	2
82	Earl Thomas	TE	6-3	224	24	3
83	Mac Percival	K	6-4	220	33	7
84	Jim Seymour	WR	6-4	210	27	4
85	Willie Holman	DE	6-4	250	28	6
86	Bob Parsons	TE	6-4	235	23	2
87	Steve DeLong	DE	6-2	254	30	9
88	Bobby Joe Green	P	5-11	175	37	14
89	Bob Wallace	TE	6-3	220	27	6

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Join the Big Team, See Your Nearest Legion Post for Information. Become a Member of the Big Team. Eligibility Dates: WWI April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; WWII December 7, 1941 to September 2, 1945; Korea June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 and Vietnam August 5, 1964 to end of hostilities.

Bears Prospectus

No need for you to strain to make optimistic reading out of an in-depth appraisal of Abe Gibron's first year as head coach of the Bears. Even in the 4-9-1 season, there were week-to-week symptoms of considerable potential as they tried mightily to measure up to his standards of NFL team competence:

"... forty guys who want to play football that punishes the opposition on offense and defense. Anybody that doesn't want to, let him go some place else, squeeze grapes and throw the juice at the other people. I want none of that here!"

George Halas, founder and chairman of the board of the team which he last coached in 1967, is emphatically on record as satisfied with Gibron's debut as a head coach.

"I view 1972 as a transitional year and the progress Abe made is encouraging. He restored discipline without bruising any egos and he re-installed organization with an objective. His enthusiasm and competitive drive were contagious and team morale remained high right through the final game of the schedule."

This was an old-fashioned Bears' team that accented rushing and the 2,360 yards along the ground led the National Conference and gave them fourth in the league overall.

The annual college draft session was the Bears' most productive since the blue-chip selection year of 1965 that brought Dick Butkus and Gale Sayers among others.

For not only did they select almost exactly, or very close to it, the collegians with the credentials that fit a pre-draft game plan but they dealt for two proven NFL starters---running back Carl Garrett from New England and tight end Craig Cotton from Detroit.

Gibron didn't write down starting lineups in the spring of '72 and he's not fantasizing this year either. But the draft did give some clue to his general pre-season thinking and he allowed these observations:

"We need a better pass rush... I want to see that other quarterback sacked more often. Cotton gives me a good blocker at tight end and shakes Thomas loose as a wide receiver... Douglass is my quarterback unless or until somebody beats him out for the job... and if that should happen, why, he'll go out and take a job away from somebody else at another position."

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	4-9-1
Divisional Standing	4
Divisional W-L-T	1-5-0
Conference W-L-T	3-7-1
Interconference W-L-T	1-2-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	23
NFL Defensive Ranking	13
Average Yardage Differential	–32.5
Points/Points Allowed	225/275
Quarter 1	35/76
Quarter 2	43/100
Quarter 3	54/53
Quarter 4	93/46
Coach	Abe Gibron
Coach's Pro Record	4-9-1

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.412
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	24-45-1
Divisional Favorite	Green Bay
Coach	Abe Gibron
Coach's Pro Record	4-9-1

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Wally Chambers,DE,	E. Kentucky
Gary Huff,QB,	Florida State
Gary Hrivnak,DT,	Purdue
Allan Ellis,DB,	U.C.L.A.
Mike Creaney,C,	Notre Dame

Bobby Douglass scrambled for 968 yards to lead the Bears in rushing.

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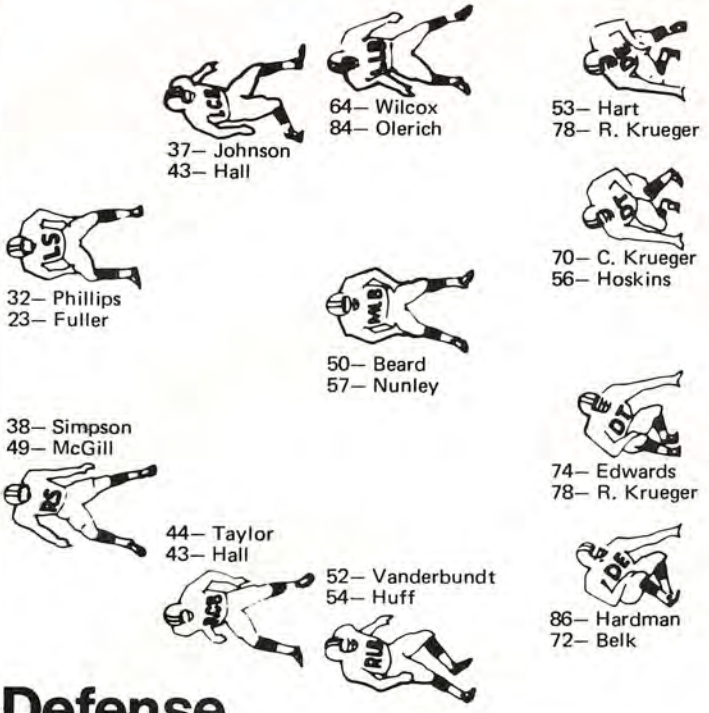
GAME 8

San Francisco

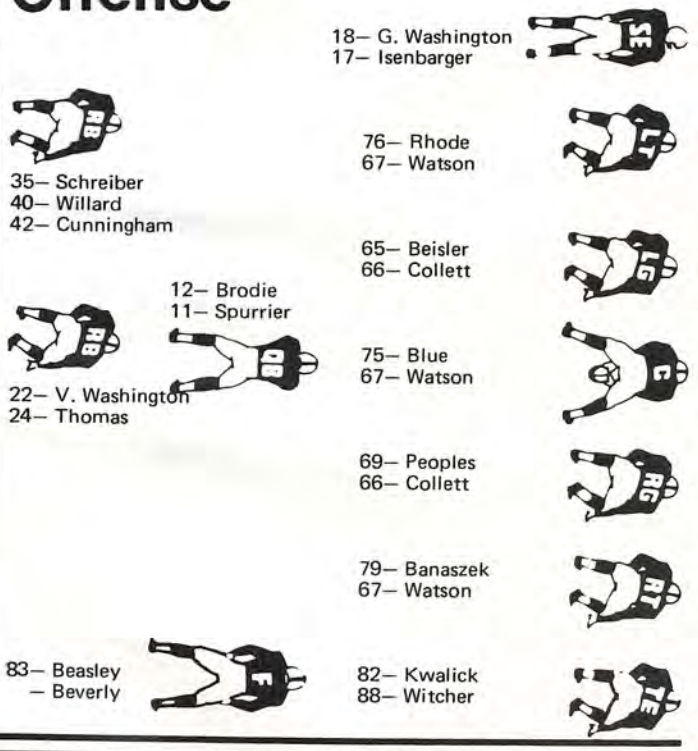
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
11	Steve Spurrier	QB	6-2	204	28	7
12	John Brodie	QB	6-2	206	38	17
15	Jim McCann	P	6-3	166	24	3
17	John Isenbarger	WR	6-3	196	26	4
18	Gene Washington	WR	6-2	185	26	5
19	Joe Reed	QB	6-1	195	25	2
22	Vic Washington	RB	5-11	197	26	3
23	Johnny Fuller	S	6-0	186	27	6
24	Jimmy Thomas	RB	6-2	214	26	5
30	Bruce Gossett	K	6-1	204	31	10
32	Mel Phillips	S	6-2	198	31	8
35	Larry Schreiber	RB	6-0	210	25	3
36	Greg Jones	RB	6-1	205	25	3
37	Jimmy Johnson	CB	6-2	187	35	13
38	Mike Simpson	S	5-9	170	26	4
40	Ken Willard	RB	6-1	219	30	9
42	Doug Cunningham	RB	5-11	200	28	7
43	Windlan Hall	S	5-11	178	23	2
44	Bruce Taylor	DB	6-0	193	25	4
45	Bill Tucker	RB	6-2	223	30	6
49	Ralph McGill	DB	5-11	183	23	2
50	Ed Beard	LB	6-2	216	33	9
52	Skip Vanderbundt	LB	6-3	225	26	5
53	Tommy Hart	DE	6-4	245	28	6
54	Marty Huff	LB	6-2	234	24	2
56	Bob Hoskins	DT	6-3	251	28	4
57	Frank Nunley	LB	6-2	229	27	7
64	Dave Wilcox	LB	6-3	241	30	10
65	Randy Beisler	G	6-5	261	28	8
66	Elmer Collett	G	6-5	244	28	7
67	John Watson	T	6-4	249	24	3
69	Woody Peoples	G	6-2	252	30	6
70	Charlie Krueger	DT	6-4	255	36	15
72	Bill Belk	DE	6-4	256	27	6
74	Earl Edwards	DT	607	260	27	5
75	Forrest Blue	C	6-5	261	28	6
76	Len Rohde	T	6-4	247	35	14
78	Rolf Krueger	DT	6-4	253	25	5
79	Cas Banazek	T	6-3	254	27	6
82	Ted Kwalick	TE	6-4	226	26	5
83	Terry Beasley	WR	5-10	184	22	2
84	Dave Olerich	LB	6-1	220	29	7
86	Cedrick Hardman	DE	6-4	255	24	4
88	Dick Witcher	TE	6-3	204	28	8
	Michael Holmes	CB	6-1	180	23	1

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Sons of The American Legion provides an excellent opportunity for young boys to develop the qualities of good citizenship. The Ten Ideals of patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence, and comradeship are the fundamentals that every S.A.L. member attempts to achieve.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

49ers Prospectus

By now veteran contenders, albeit frustrated veteran contenders, the San Francisco 49ers head the 1973 NFL campaign facing the toughest schedule they have had in the past three years and nagged by a few problems that could cause trouble enroute to a fourth-consecutive winning season.

Since its inception in 1970 the NFC's Western Division has known only one champion, the San Francisco 49ers. San Francisco is the only team in the NFL to have won three consecutive divisional titles under the current setup.

Despite that record of success, the 49ers have also lived with frustration in each of the three years because they have not been able to break through the NFL's championship round and into the Super Bowl.

This year, although most of the ingredients which have made the past three seasons are still available, the chore facing San Francisco could be far tougher.

First problem, the schedule.

In addition to their own division the 49ers take on both Super Bowl teams, Miami and Washington, and division winners Green Bay and Pittsburgh along with Minnesota, Detroit, Denver and Philadelphia in the regular season.

Specifically at the team level there are two major concerns.

In 1972 the running game, which had ranked fifth in the NFC the previous season, dropped to a puzzling 10th and was inconsistent throughout. The fact that San Francisco was the only NFL division winner that didn't have a 1,000-yd. runner, yet managed to lead the NFC in scoring with 353 points, indicated the rest of the club's game was working pretty well. Obviously, a turn-around on the ground could make a big difference.

The other team-level problem developed at middle linebacker as the season came to a close. Veteran starter Ed Beard was injured in the final game and underwent his second knee operation in the off-season. Frank Nunley, who began the season as the starter, battled injury all year long and had an inconclusive season.

From an overall view, there are more positives than negatives in San Francisco's 1973 prospectus and the club should be a strong contender again, but the negatives are of such proportions that they could become major stumbling blocks if left unattended.

1972 FACTS

Season's W-L-T	8-5-1
Divisional Standing	1
Divisional W-L-T	3-2-1
Conference W-L-T	6-4-1
Interconference W-L-T	2-1-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	8
NFL Defensive Ranking	14
Average Yardage Differential	+23.2
Points/Points Allowed	353/249
Quarter 1	64/48
Quarter 2	105/63
Quarter 3	67/63
Quarter 4	117/75
Coach	Dick Nolan
Coach's Pro Record	38-27-5

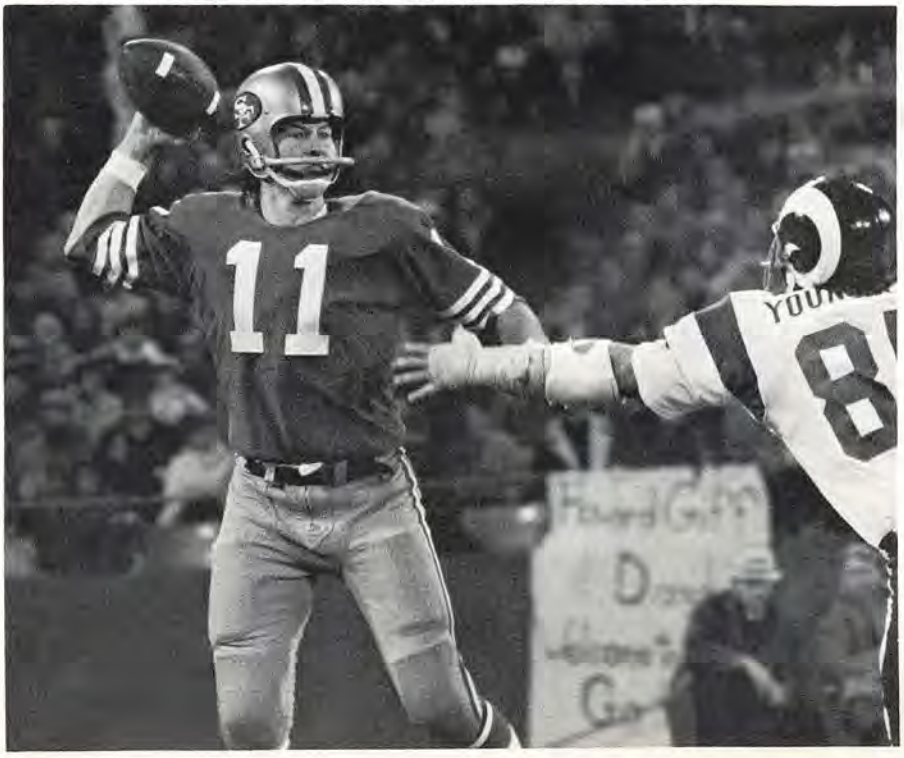
1973 FACTORS

Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.565
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	38-27-5
Divisional Favorite	San Francisco
Coach	Dick Nolan
Coach's Pro Record	38-27-5

TOP DRAFT CHOICES

Mike Holmes,DB,	Texas Southern
Willie Harper,LB,	Nebraska
Mike Fulk,LB,	Indiana
Ed Beverly,WR,	Arizona State
Arthur Moore,DT,	Tulsa

A super sub Steve Spurrier was responsible for many 49er victories.



GAME NINE—ONE YEAR AGO
Detroit 14 at Minnesota 16

THE GAME: Calmly, cooly, and ready to collect victory, Errol Mann stepped into a 33-yard winning FG attempt with :05 left . . . Having not missed 4 tries earlier in the season from the 30-39 range, Mann again hit it solidly . . . But so did Viking DB Bobby Bryant with his face and blocked the kick . . . A high snap from sub placekick center Ed Flanagan to sub placekick holder Greg Landry slowed the precision down by a whisker — Bryant's . . . The Lions had come back from a 0-10 deficit and began their last go-ahead drive with 4:00 left . . . The thinking was FG all along as no time-outs were used in the drive . . .

THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Minnesota
First downs	9	17
Yards rushing	102	177
Yards passing	126	121
Total yards	228	298
Passes	11-18-0	15-27-0
Punts	6-38	2-50
Fumbles lost	1	3
Yards penalized	39	10

Detroit	0	0	14	0	14
Minnesota	3	0	7	6	16

Rushing — Detroit: A. Taylor, 13-54; Owens, 8-26; Landry, 3-22. Minnesota: Reed, 23-124; Marinaro, 10-34; Brown, 3-10; Osborn, 3-10. Receiving — Detroit: L. Walton, 4-97; Sanders, 2-8; A. Taylor, 2-7. Minnesota: Marinaro, 4-25; Washington, 3-35; Reed, 3-10. Passing — Detroit: Landry, 11-18-0, 132 yards. Minnesota: Tarkenton, 15-27-0, 121 yards.

GAME TEN—ONE YEAR AGO
New Orleans 14 at Detroit 27

THE GAME: When a team has the wind let out of its sails, it needs a puff — a cream puff . . . That's what Detroit got when the Saints blew into town 1 week after the heartbreaking loss to Minnesota — Helping the Lions back onto course were QB Greg Landry with 2 TD passes, K Errol Mann, the aborted hero of the Minnesota game, with 2 FGs, and DB Lem Barney with 2 interceptions . . . Barney not only took away the ball but also ran his 2 interceptions up field for a total of 85 exciting yards . . . The really good news was the defense's continued improvement . . .

THE STATISTICS:	Saints	Detroit
Orleans Detroit		
First downs	17	21
Yards rushing	77	123
Yards passing	242	207
Total yards	319	330
Passes	20-30-2	17-26-0
Punts	5-38	3-44
Fumbles lost	1	0
Yards penalized	35	45

New Orleans	0	0	0	14	14
Detroit	7	7	3	10	27

Rushing — New Orleans: Manning, 3-79; Gresham, 9-25; Butler, 7-24. Detroit: A. Taylor, 14-53; Owens, 14-49; Landry, 4-19. Receiving — New Orleans: Gresham, 6-28; Abramowicz, 4-99; Butler, 4-44. Detroit: A. Taylor, 6-51; Sanders, 4-52; Owens, 3-28; Walton, 2-53. Passing — New Orleans: Manning, 20-30-2, 250 yards. Detroit: Landry, 17-26-0, 207 yards

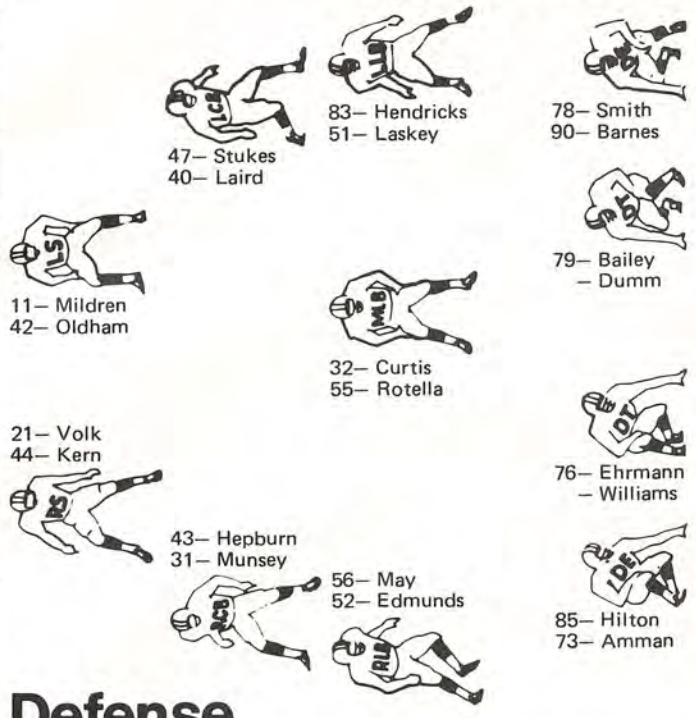
GAME 6

Baltimore

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
7	Bert Jones	QB	6-3	205	22	1
10	George Hunt	K	6-1	215	24	2
11	Jack Mildren	DB	6-1	199	23	2
14	Marty Domres	QB	6-4	222	26	5
17	Sam Havrilak	WR	6-2	195	25	5
21	Rick Volk	DB	6-3	195	28	7
23	Don McCauley	RB	6-1	207	23	3
26	Lydell Mitchell	RB	5-11	204	24	2
31	Nelson Munsey	DB	6-1	185	25	2
32	Mike Curtis	LB	6-2	232	29	9
33	Eddie Hinton	WR	6-0	200	26	5
35	Glen Doughty	WR	6-2	204	22	2
36	Bill Olds	RB	6-1	224	22	1
40	Bruce Laird	DB	6-0	185	23	2
42	Ray Oldham	S	6-0	200	22	1
43	Lonnie Hepburn	DB	5-11	180	25	3
44	Rex Kern	S	6-1	190	23	3
47	Charlie Stukes	DB	6-3	212	29	7
48	Don Nottingham	RB	5-10	210	23	3
49	David Lee	P	6-4	230	29	8
51	Bill Laskey	LB	6-3	235	30	8
52	Randy Edmunds	LB	6-2	225	27	6
54	Fred Hoaglin	C	6-4	250	29	8
55	Jamie Rotella	LB	6-2	225	22	1
56	Ray May	LB	6-1	230	28	7
57	Ken Mendenhall	C	6-3	235	25	3
60	Tom Regner	G	6-1	255	29	7
61	Cornelius Johnson	G	6-2	245	29	6
62	Glenn Ressler	G	6-3	250	30	9
66	David Taylor	G	6-4	254	23	1
68	Dennis Nelson	T	6-5	260	27	4
71	Gery Palmer	T	6-4	255	22	1
72	Bob Vogel	T	6-5	250	31	11
73	Richard Amman	DE	6-5	234	22	2
74	Tom Drougas	T	6-4	257	23	2
76	Joe Ehrmann	DT	6-5	260	23	1
78	Bubba Smith	DE	6-7	265	28	7
79	Jim Bailey	DT	6-6	255	24	4
80	Jim O'Brien	WR-K	6-0	195	25	4
83	Ted Hendricks	LB	6-7	220	25	5
84	Tom Mitchell	TE	6-3	215	29	7
85	Roy Hilton	DE	6-6	240	30	9
86	John Andrews	TE	6-3	227	24	2
88	John Mosier	TE	6-3	220	25	3
90	Mike Barnes	DE	6-6	255	22	1

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



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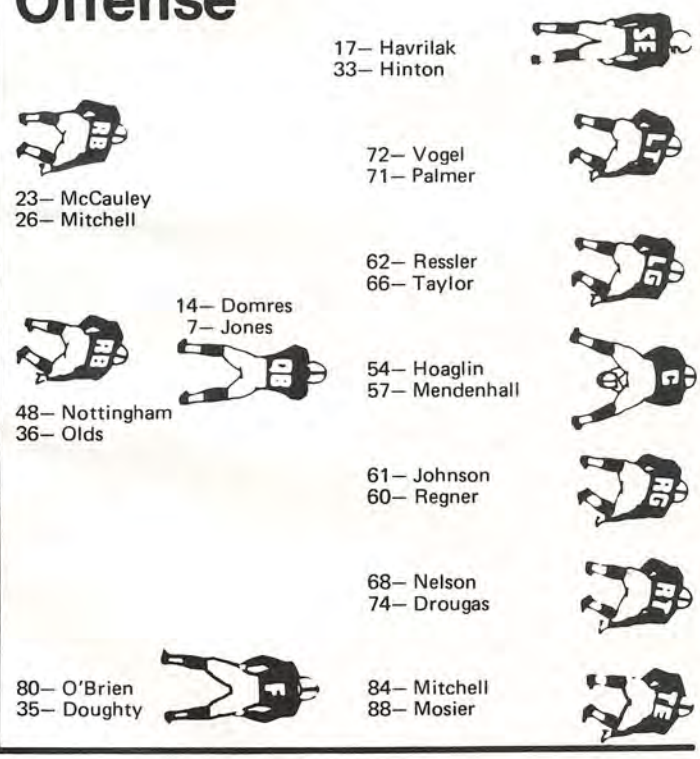


IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

The history of The American Legion's involvement in Children and Youth Programs has been one of amazing awareness of and the responsiveness to the pressing problems that confront our young people. The American Legion is proud of its record of action and achievement in which the entire organization takes great pride.

Colts Prospectus

The Colts expect 1973 to be a very successful season. With the appointment of Howard Schnellenberger as head coach, the Colts are expected to play aggressive and disciplined football. There will be many new faces in the Baltimore lineup -- players acquired through draft and former reserve players who are now making their bids to start.

Offensively the Colts will be trying to develop an offense that can move the ball with consistency and at the same time not make errors that will encourage the opponents. At quarterback the Colts will see either Marty Domres or rookie Bert Jones bidding for the leadership position. Behind Domres or Jones will be the extremely strong running of Don Nottingham and Don McCauley. Both show excellent outside running ability, but Nottingham gives the power while McCauley offers the excellent pass catching ability needed in the backfield.

Tight end Tom Mitchell could possibly be the premier all-round player. He gives the Colts strong blocking on the off-tackle plays and has strong straight-away blocking abilities as well as good receiving talents. However, there is very little back up talent at this position making this a possible weak spot.

Several veterans will be missing from the offensive line in 1973. The Colts will be looking at some reserves and rookies to make a strong bid for line positions. The offensive line must function as a unit if the Colts are going to make any bid for the division title.

Defensively, the Colts are stronger. With the return of Bubba Smith the Colts will again capture the ability to raise havoc in the opponents backfield. Returning veterans Roy Hilton and Chuck Hinton should give the defensive line that solid experience needed for a good pass rush. Linebackers Ray May, Mike Curtis, and Ted Hendricks are the heart of the Colt defense. Their knowledge and experience will be the big plus-factor for the Colts. The defensive secondary should have good experience and consistent play. Charlie Stukes, Bruce Laird, Lonnie Hepburn, and Nelson Munsey will be competing for starting positions at cornerback.

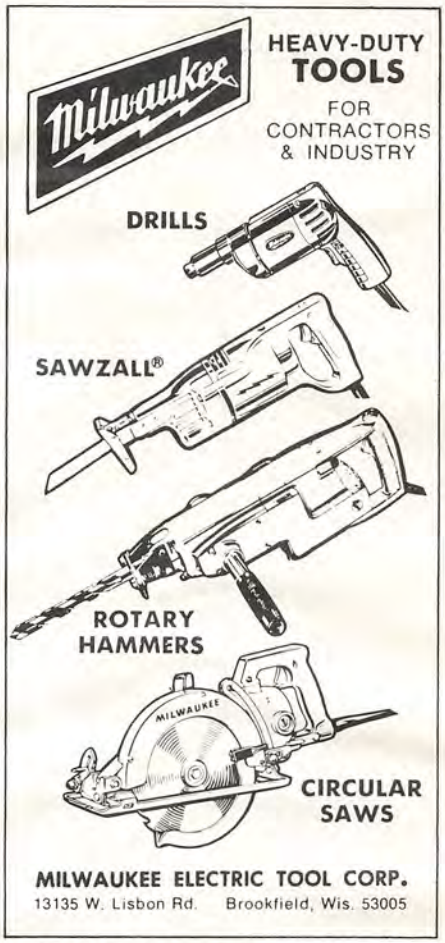
Summarizing, the Colts have a sound defense with more experience than the offense. It is on defense that the Colts will attempt to establish the foundation of a title contender.

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	5-9-0
Divisional Standing	3
Divisional W-L-T	4-4-0
Conference W-L-T	5-6-0
Interconference W-L-T	0-3-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	14
NFL Defensive Ranking	20
Average Yardage Differential	–8.9
Points/Points Allowed	235/252
Quarter 1	48/57
Quarter 2	70/70
Quarter 3	58/47
Quarter 4	59/78
Coach	McCafferty/Sandusky
Coach's Pro Record	22-10-1/4-5-0

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.514
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	47-21-2
Divisional Favorite	Miami
Coach	Howard Schnellenberger
Coach's Pro Record	0-0-0

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Bert Jones,QB,	Louisiana State
Joe Ehrmann,DT,	Syracuse
Mike Barnes,DE,	Miami (Fla.)
Bill Olds,RB,	Nebraska
Jamie Rotella,LB,	Tennessee

The Colts' bright look in the future will radiate from such talent as Marty Domres.



GAME EIGHT—ONE YEAR AGO
Chicago 0 at Detroit 14

THE GAME: Although Chicago's QB Bobby Douglass ran away with Greg Landry's 1-year old NFL QB rushing mark before the Detroit leader's very eyes, Landry shed no tears as his own efforts this day garnered a more precious prize — victory . . . Landry led his charges to TDs the 1st 2 times they had the ball, scoring the 2nd TD himself . . . 1 score was all that was needed for a change, however, as the defense put it all together . . . Chicago's attack was limited to a mere 146 yards and a more mere 0 points on the tote board . . . The defense's work was especially heroic considering that Landry did give up 4 2nd half interceptions

THE STATISTICS:	Chicago	Detroit
First downs	9	21
Yards rushing	122	191
Yards passing	24	135
Total yards	146	326
Passes	4-12-0	12-22-4
Punts	6-37	2-41
Fumbles lost	1	0
Yards penalized	55	49

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	7	7	0	0	14

Rushing — Chicago: Douglass, 7-52; Shy, 13-36; Harrison, 7-30. Detroit, Landry, 8-71; Owens, 24-62; A. Taylor, 14-58. Receiving — Chicago: Shy, 1-24; Seymour, 1-12; Thomas, 1-11; Harrison, 1-8. Detroit: Sanders, 6-76; Owens, 2-25; L. Walton, 1-18; Jessie, 1-15; A. Taylor, 1-8. Passing: Chicago: Douglass, 4-12-0, 55 yards. Detroit: Landry, 12-22-4, 142 yards.

GAME 5

New Orleans

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
8	Archie Manning	QB	6-3	212	24	3
9	Happy Feller	K	5-11	185	24	3
10	Julian Fagan	P	6-3	205	25	4
11	Bivian Lee	CB	6-3	200	25	3
12	Bobby Scott	QB	6-1	201	23	2
14	Kent Nix	QB	6-1	198	29	7
18	Hugo Hollas	S	6-1	190	27	4
22	D'Artagnan Martin	CB	6-1	190	24	2
23	Doug Wyatt	S	6-1	195	26	4
24	Joe Williams	RB	6-0	193	26	3
25	Al Dodd	WR	6-0	185	28	4
26	Margene Adkins	WR	5-10	183	26	4
28	Jim Ford	RB	6-0	210	23	3
29	Billie Hayes	CB	6-1	175	26	2
30	Ernie Jackson	CB	5-10	173	23	2
34	Carlos Bell	TE	6-5	230	25	2
35	Bob Gresham	RB	5-11	195	25	3
36	Bob Brown	TE	6-2	225	30	5
37	Tom Myers	S	5-11	184	22	3
38	Bill Butler	RB	6-0	218	23	2
41	Bob Newland	WR	6-2	190	24	3
42	Jim Strong	RB	6-1	210	26	4
45	Arthur Green	RB	5-11	198	25	2
46	Dan Abramowicz	WR	6-1	195	28	7
50	Jake Kupp	G	6-3	248	32	10
51	John Didion	C	6-4	245	25	5
52	Dick Palmer	LB	6-2	232	26	4
53	Bill Hobbs	LB	6-1	215	27	5
54	Tom Roussel	LB	6-3	235	28	6
56	Willie Hall	LB	6-2	217	23	2
58	Joe Federspiel	LB	6-1	225	23	2
59	Wayne Colman	LB	6-1	230	27	6
61	Del Williams	G	6-2	240	27	7
66	Royce Smith	G	6-3	245	24	2
67	Bob Kuziel	C	6-4	255	23	2
68	Wimpy Winther	C	6-4	261	25	3
	Ron Billingsley	DT	6-8	270	28	7
72	Joe Owens	DE	6-2	245	26	4
74	Doug Mooers	DT	6-6	265	26	3
75	Mike Crangle	DE	6-4	243	26	2
78	Glen Ray Hines	T	6-5	265	29	8
82	Bob Pollard	DT	6-3	245	24	3
85	Cephus Weatherspoon	WR	6-1	182	25	2
87	Billy Newsome	DE	6-5	250	25	4
89	Dave Long	DT	6-4	245	28	8

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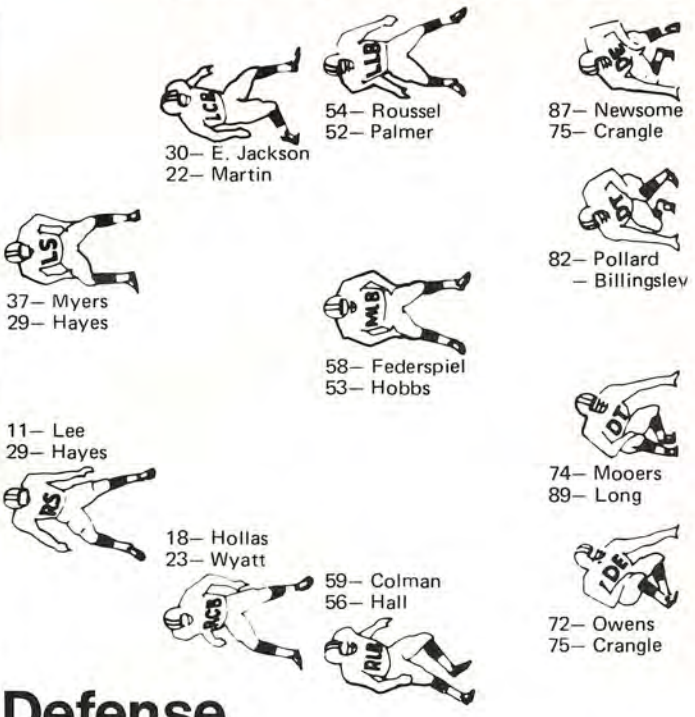
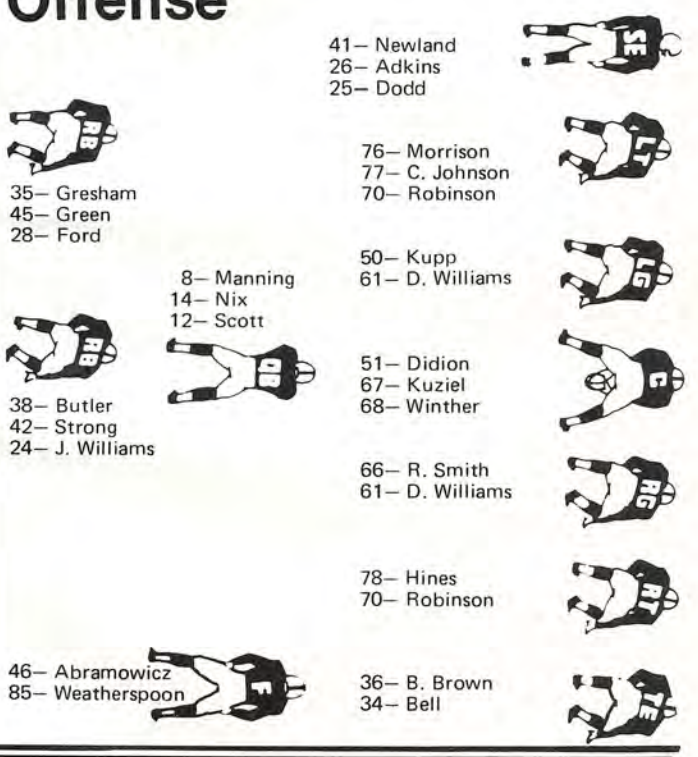


Defense

Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Wolverine Boys' State Program is a practical experience in the problems of self-government. Junior Boys in High School participate in a one-week "learning-by-doing" session which emphasizes the practical theory of good government.

Saints Prospectus

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the Saints' 1972 disaster was that they were virtually TKO victims by halftime in at least six of their eleven setbacks. Ghastly mistakes of commission and omission -- none of them uncommon to young ball clubs -- had the inexperienced Saints struggling from the start against the NFL's better teams. The Saints simply didn't posses the firepower to overcome the damage inflicted by 37 turnovers -- including 16 lost fumbles and 21 stray passes. The latter statistic was a direct result of the Saints being forced into the air on 449 occasions -- usually in an effort to scrap from behind overwhelming deficits. It would be an understatement to say that the opposition was generally prepared to cope with the Saints' desperate overhead assaults.

The Saints secondary had its moments of glory last year, particularly when rookies Ernie Jackson and Tom Myers were in action. With a stronger pass-rush the secondary should be able to step up their overall defensive activities.

How the front four alignment works out could depend upon the progress by two second round selections -- Derland Moore and Steve Baumgartner. This help will not increase in size on the defensive wall but definitely quicker, stronger and more vigorous -- with the pass-rush being the chief beneficiary.

The man who will direct the Saints' attack is the redoubtable redhead, Archie Manning. With experience he's gaining confidence in himself and the confidence of his teammates. The artful dodger rushed for 351 yards and completed 230 passes for 2,781 yards, all Saints records, Archies the key to the offense but he needs lots of help.

In an effort to inject added speed, power and intelligence into their 1973 attack, the Saints drafted six running backs -- one of whom could be shifted to tight end. The Saints suffered through too many missed backfield assignments to be satisfied with the overall concentration last season.

Thus the Saints are pinning their '73 hopes on reviving their defense. As New Orleans Saints coach J. D. Roberts clarifies, "It's not like we're 100% content with our offense, but upon reviewing our disappointing showing in 1972 we'd have to conclude that a tougher, quicker and more opportunistic defense could be the key to an improved record next season.

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	2-11-1
Divisional Standing	4
Divisional W-L-T	1-4-1
Conference W-L-T	2-8-1
Interconference W-L-T	0-3-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	20
NFL Defensive Ranking	21
Average Yardage Differential	−59.1
Points/Points Allowed	215/361
Quarter 1	37/78
Quarter 2	45/137
Quarter 3	54/68
Quarter 4	79/78
Coach	J.D. Roberts
Coach's Pro Record	6-19-3

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.519
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	17-48-5
Divisional Favorite	San Francisco
Coach	J.D. Roberts
Coach's Pro Record	6-19-3

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Deerland Moore,DE,	Oklahoma
Steve Baumgartner,DE,	Purdue
Pete VanValkenburg,RB,	Brigham Young
Jim Merlo,LB,	Stanford
Marty Shuford,RB,	Arizona

A relentless Saint defense proved to be the strong point of the team.

GAME SIX—ONE YEAR AGO
San Diego 20 at Detroit 34

THE GAME: The Lions rode a strong offensive effort back into a tie for 1st place . . . QB Greg Landry had his most solid game of the season, aided by receivers who were more sure-handed for a change . . . 2 offensive personnel changes also contributed to the increased scoring socko . . . RB Mel Farr subbed for Steve Owens, who was out with cracked ribs, and scored 2 TDs — 1 just before halftime and another right after to free Detroit for good from a 6-6 deadlock . . . The nonpareil TE, Charlie Sanders, returned, having recovered substantially from a shoulder injury, and Detroit was glad he did . . .

THE STATISTICS:	San Diego	Detroit
First downs	17	24
Yards rushing	82	182
Yards passing	143	142
Total yards	225	324
Passes	12-27-2	12-24-1
Punts	3-37	1-42
Fumbles lost	1	1
Yards penalized	47	48

San Diego	6	0	0	14	20
Detroit	6	7	14	7	34

Rushing — San Diego: Edwards, 9-42; Garrett, 12-40. Detroit: Farr, 22-96; Landry, 7-44; Taylor, 15-42. Receiving — San Diego: Garrison, 7-119; Mackey, 4-29; Dicus, 1-13. Detroit: L. Walton, 7-101; Sanders, 3-50. Passing — San Diego: Hadl, 12-27-2, 161 yards. Detroit: Landry, 12-24-1, 151 yards.

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THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Dallas
First downs	14	19
Yards rushing	59	159
Yards passing	224	206
Total yards	283	365
Passes	12-21-0	11-19-1
Punts	5-41	3-39
Fumbles lost	0	1
Yards penalized	5	60

Detroit	0	14	3	7	24
Dallas	14	7	0	7	28

Rushing — Detroit: Landry, 9-46; Owens, 2-7; Farr, 11-5; Taylor, 6-1. Dallas: Hill 20-81; Montgomery, 10-38. Receiving — Detroit: Sanders, 3-82; Farr, 3-59; Taylor, 2-47; L. Walton, 2-30. Dallas: Garrison, 3-42; Parks, 2-53; Montgomery, 2-42; Fugett, 2-30. Passing — Detroit: Landry, 11-20-0, 217 yards. Dallas: Morton, 11-19-1, 206 yards.

GAMES 4&9

Minnesota

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
10	Francis Tarkenton	QB	6-0	190	33	13
11	Mike Eischeid	P	6-0	190	31	7
14	Fred Cox	K	5-10	200	34	11
17	Bob Berry	QB	5-11	185	31	9
20	Bob Bryant	DB	6-1	170	29	6
22	Paul Krause	DB	6-2	200	31	10
23	Jeff Wright	DB	5-11	190	24	3
24	Terry Brown	DB	6-1	205	26	4
26	Clint Jones	RB	6-0	205	28	7
27	Calvin Demery	WR	6-0	190	23	2
29	Karl Kassulke	DB	6-0	195	32	11
30	Bill Brown	RB	5-11	228	35	13
32	Oscar Reed	RB	6-0	228	29	6
40	Charlie West	DB	6-1	197	27	6
41	Dave Osborn	RB	6-0	208	30	9
42	John Gilliam	WR	6-1	195	28	7
43	Nate Wright	DB	5-11	180	25	4
49	Ed Marinaro	RB	6-2	212	23	2
50	Jeff Siemon	LB	6-2	230	23	2
51	Godfrey Zaunbrecher	C	6-1	240	27	3
53	Mick Tingelhoff	C	6-2	237	33	12
55	Amos Martin	LB	6-3	228	24	2
56	Carl Gersbach	LB	6-1	230	26	4
58	Wally Hilgenberg	LB	6-3	229	31	10
60	Roy Winston	LB	5-11	222	33	12
62	Ed White	G	6-2	268	26	5
64	Milt Sunde	G	6-2	250	31	10
67	Grady Alderman	T	6-2	247	34	14
69	Doug Sutherland	DE	6-3	250	25	4
70	Jim Marshall	DE	6-4	248	35	14
	Chuck Foreman	RB	6-1	206	23	1
	Jim Lash	WR	6-1	192	22	1
	Jackie Wallace	DB	6-2	188	22	1
72	John Ward	DE-G	6-4	250	25	4
73	Ron Yary	T	6-5	255	27	6
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87	John Beasley	TE	6-3	228	27	6
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	Rusty Ganas	DT	6-5	250	24	3
	Al Randolph	DB	6-2	205	29	7

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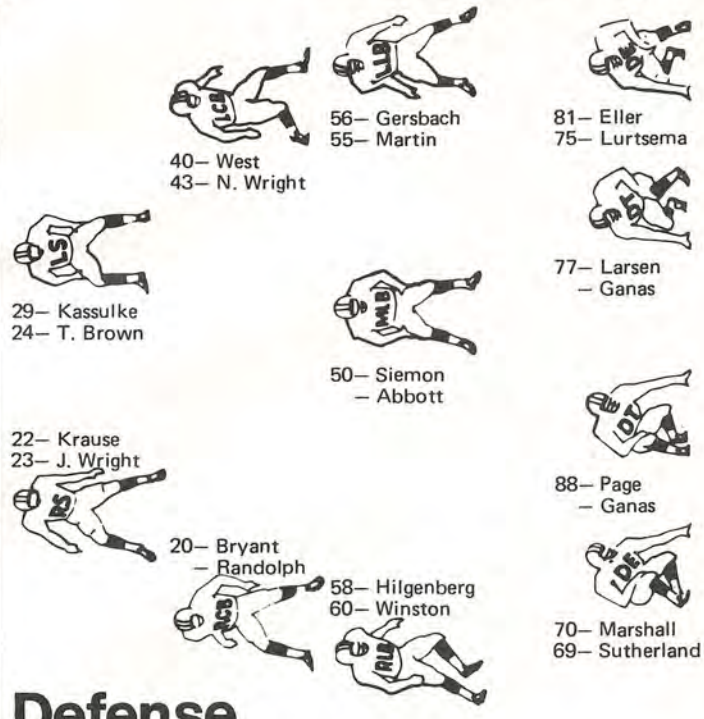

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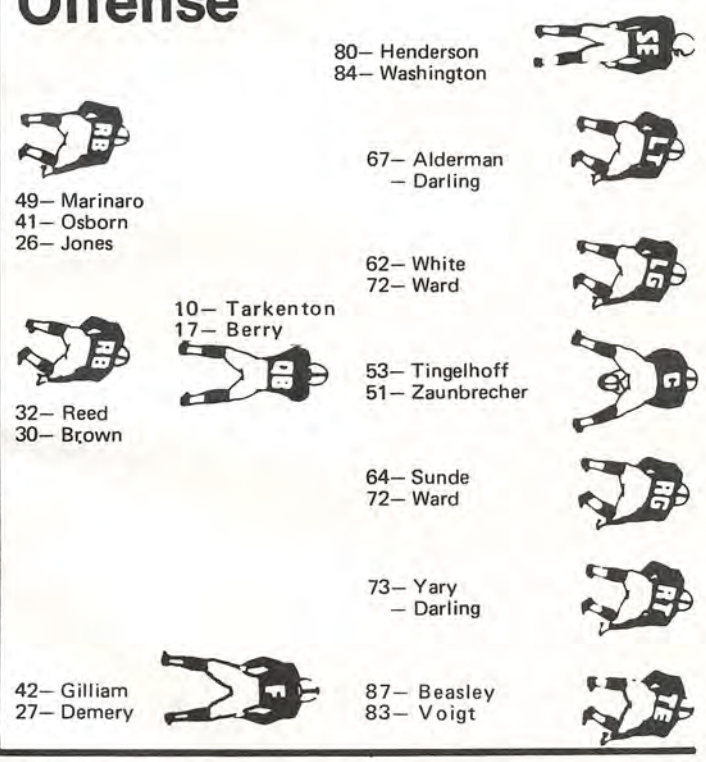

IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

The proposed Planned Living Program at The American Legion Hospital in Battle Creek will offer medical care, recreation, privacy and the opportunity to travel for those latter years of retirement. The motel styled living program is designed for you. For further information write:
Planned Living for the Future
American Legion Hospital
109 Evergreen Road
Battle Creek, Michigan
49017

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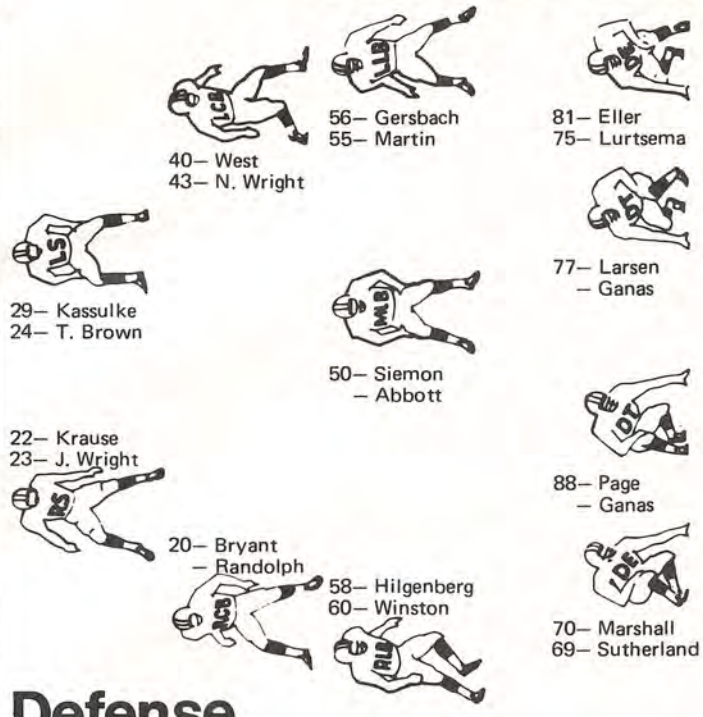
40	Charlie West	DB	6-1	197	27	6
41	Dave Osborn	RB	6-0	208	30	9
42	John Gilliam	WR	6-1	195	28	7
43	Nate Wright	DB	5-11	180	25	4
49	Ed Marinaro	RB	6-2	212	23	2
50	Jeff Siemon	LB	6-2	230	23	2
51	Godfrey Zaunbrecher	C	6-1	240	27	3
53	Mick Tingelhoff	C	6-2	237	33	12
55	Amos Martin	LB	6-3	228	24	2
56	Carl Gersbach	LB	6-1	230	26	4
58	Wally Hilgenberg	LB	6-3	229	31	10
60	Roy Winston	LB	5-11	222	33	12
62	Ed White	G	6-2	268	26	5
64	Milt Sunde	G	6-2	250	31	10
67	Grady Alderman	T	6-2	247	34	14
69	Doug Sutherland	DE	6-3	250	25	4
70	Jim Marshall	DE	6-4	248	35	14
	Chuck Foreman	RB	6-1	206	23	1
	Jim Lash	WR	6-1	192	22	1
	Jackie Wallace	DB	6-2	188	22	1
72	John Ward	DE-G	6-4	250	25	4
73	Ron Yary	T	6-5	255	27	6
75	Bob Lurtsema	DE	6-6	250	31	7
77	Gary Larsen	DT	6-5	261	33	10
80	John Henderson	WR	6-3	195	30	9
81	Carl Eller	DE	6-6	247	31	10
83	Stu Voigt	TE	6-1	220	25	3
84	Gene Washington	WR	6-3	208	28	7
87	John Beasley	TE	6-3	228	27	6
88	Alan Page	DT	6-4	245	28	7
	Rusty Ganas	DT	6-5	250	24	3
	Al Randolph	DB	6-2	205	29	7

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



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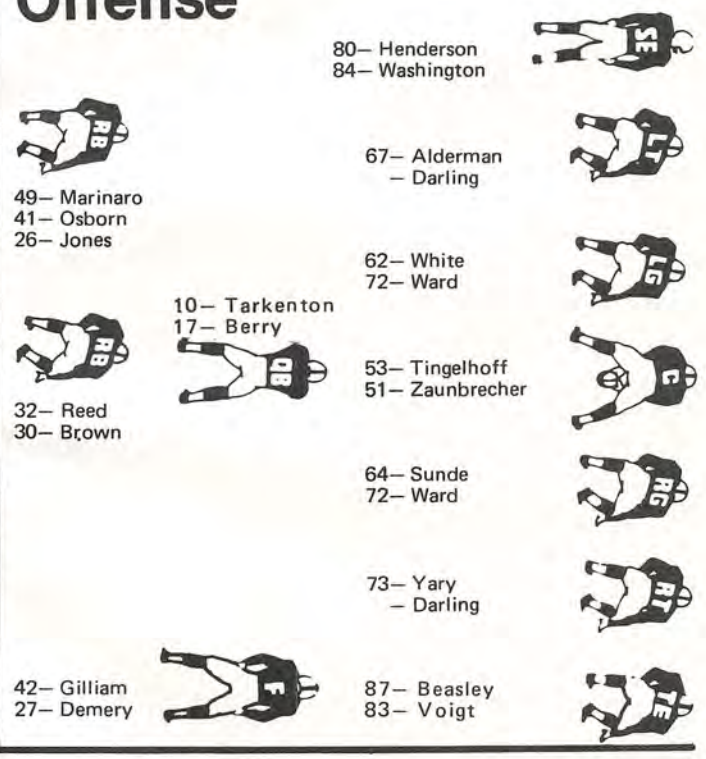


IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

The proposed Planned Living Program at The American Legion Hospital in Battle Creek will offer medical care, recreation, privacy and the opportunity to travel for those latter years of retirement. The motel styled living program is designed for you. For further information write:
Planned Living for the Future
American Legion Hospital
109 Evergreen Road
Battle Creek, Michigan
49017

Vikings Prospectus

1972 was a frustrating year for the Vikings. "The only measuring stick," said Coach Bud Grant, "is your record." The Vikings were only capable of mustering seven victories and seven defeats. However, many of these were close ballgames. In fact, five games were lost by three points or less. Many times the Vikings were hurt by little mistakes late in the 4th quarter which cost them the ballgame.

"Offensively, we want to change some things we're not doing as well as we'd like... but we don't want to change things to the extent that we knock ourselves out of the contending position we now occupy. We have the knowledge, the experience, the knowhow to get us almost to the top; we don't want to sacrifice that to try out something for the sake of change."

Five of the six top players selected in the draft were offensive players. Two of them are running backs, Chuck Foreman and Brent McClanahan. A big durable running back is still needed to balance the running attack, and it might be one of those drafted.

Defensively, Grant plans on changing strategy to cut off the run. Teams were attacking the defense differently than they used to, and the circumstances were different. Last year the Purple Gang wasn't getting ahead by substantial margins as they had been in previous seasons. Teams would play even or try to beat the defense with the running game trying not to subject themselves to the pass rush and zone pass coverage.

Jeff Siemon (middle linebacker) is a budding superstar. He was able to play last year as a rookie due to an injury to Lonnie Warwick. When he gets a better feel for the style of play he'll be one of the finest linebackers, because of the ability and speed he possesses and the leverage he can put on a ball carrier.

John Gilliam is a great addition offensively, but the Vikings still lack that two-sided passing attack. Injuries plagued receivers Gene Washington, Bob Grim and John Henderson to keep this area uncertain throughout the season.

Francis Tarkenton brought the club exactly what was needed. The experience, the poise, the direction that he has given the club certainly has been a big asset. There is no question he is one of the top quarterbacks in football today.

With the addition of one or two key players the Vikings could again dominate the Central Division.

Season's W-L-T	7-7-0
Divisional Standing	3
Divisional W-L-T	4-2-0
Conference W-L-T	6-5-0
Interconference W-L-T	1-2-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	12
NFL Defensive Ranking	5
Average Yardage Differential	+40.1
Points/Points Allowed	301/252
Quarter 1	46/37
Quarter 2	71/45
Quarter 3	89/59
Quarter 4	95/111
Coach	Bud Grant
Coach's Pro Record	53-28-3

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.545
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	50-20-0
Divisional Favorite	Green Bay
Coach	Bud Grant
Coach's Pro Record	53-28-3

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Chuck Foreman,RB,	Miami (Fla.)
Jackie Wallace,DB,	Arizona
Jim Lash,WR,	Northwestern
Mike Wells,QB,	Illinois
Brent McClanahan,RB,	Arizona State

Fran Tarkenton and Oscar Reed supplied most of the offense muscle in '72.

NFL CAPS BY Wigwam®

Soft, comfortable, warm! Knit of washable 100% Creslan Acrylic in the color combinations of each team. Look for Wigwam's officially endorsed NBA and NHL caps too . . . at sporting goods dealers everywhere.

WIGWAM MILLS, INC., Sheboygan, WI 53081

GAME FIVE—ONE YEAR AGO
Green Bay 24 at Detroit 23

THE GAME: Green Bay got out of town this Monday night in sole possession of 1st place . . . After building a 17-0 2nd quarter lead, the Lions collapsed under the weight of a strong 2nd half surge by the young Packers . . . Besides being pushed around on 2 long TD drives, the Lions' were unable to stop Ken Ellis on an 80-yard punt return for the score that turned things around in the 3rd quarter . . . Greg Landry almost pulled it out in the last 1:00 with some on-target bombing, but his receivers couldn't make the big catch . . . The individual performances of Altie Taylor, Lem Barney, Errol Mann, and Larry Hands shined through the losing gloom.

THE STATISTICS:	Green Bay	Detroit
First downs	16	18
Yards rushing	125	146
Yards passing	140	83
Total yards	265	229
Passes	11-18-1	9-19-2
Punts	3-29	1-46
Fumbles lost	1	0
Yards penalized	26	21

Green Bay	0	7	10	7	24
Detroit	7	10	3	3	23

Rushing — Green Bay: Lane, 21-89; Brockington, 11-41. Detroit: Taylor, 20-90; Landry, 6-31; Owens, 10-25. Receiving — Green Bay: Staggers, 4-41; Brockington, 3-23; Lane, 2-49; Dale, 1-21, Glass, 1-15. Detroit: Jessie, 3-51; Taylor, 3-25; Cotton, 2-24; Owens, 1-5. Passing — Green Bay: Hunter, 11-18-1, 149 yards. Detroit: Landry, 9-19-2, 105 yards.

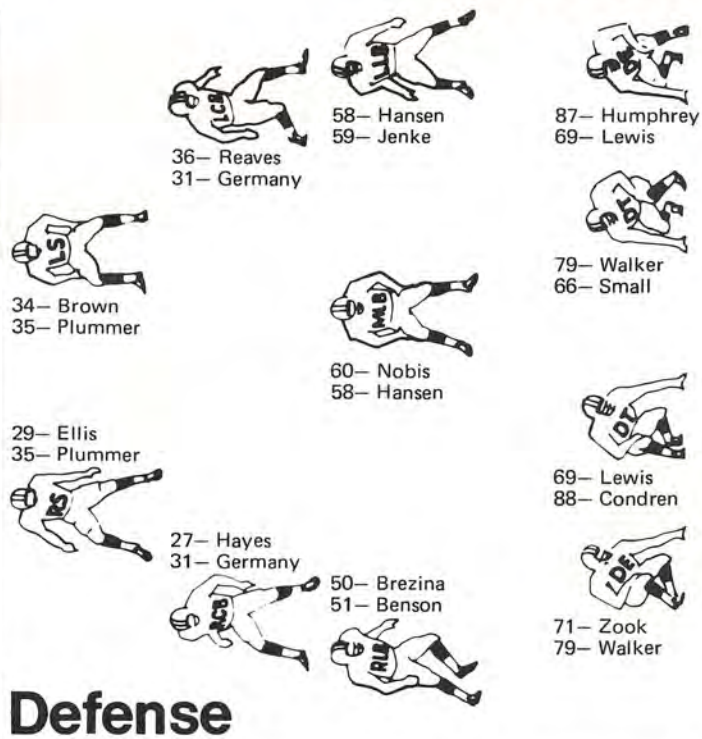
GAME 3

Atlanta

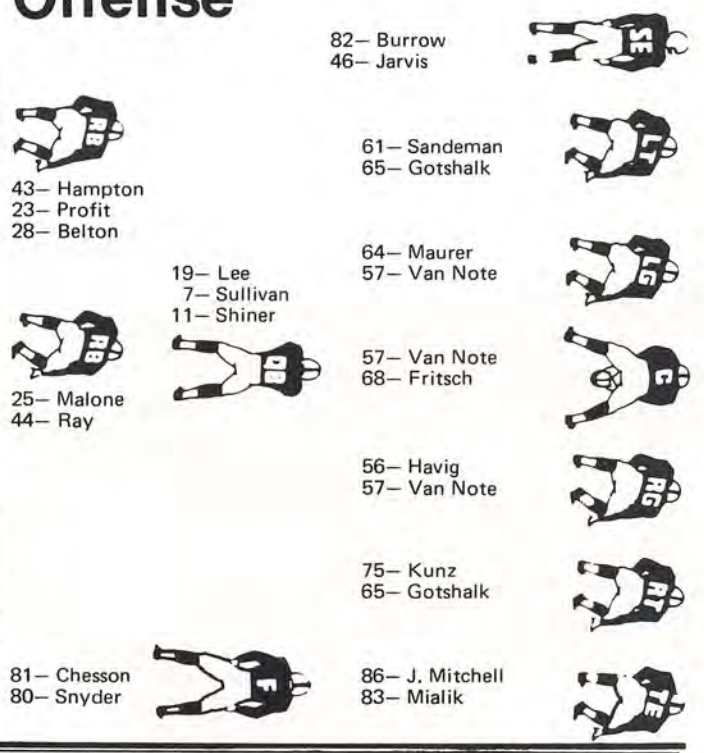
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
5	Harmon Wages	RB	6-1	215	27	5
6	John James	P	6-3	197	24	2
7	Pat Sullivan	QB	6-0	198	23	2
11	Dick Shiner	QB	6-0	201	31	10
19	Bob Lee	QB	6-2	195	28	5
23	Joe Profit	RB	6-0	213	24	3
25	Art Malone	RB	5-11	211	25	4
27	Tom Hayes	DB	6-1	199	27	3
28	Willie Belton	RB	5-11	207	24	3
29	Clarence Ellis	DB	5-11	183	23	2
31	Willie Germany	DB	6-0	192	24	2
34	Ray Brown	DB	6-1	208	24	3
35	Tony Plummer	DB	5-11	188	26	4
36	Ken Reaves	DB	6-3	210	28	8
37	Bill Bell	K	6-0	192	25	3
43	Dave Hampton	RB	6-0	210	26	5
44	Eddie Ray	RB	6-2	240	26	4
46	Ray Jarvis	WR	6-0	200	24	3
50	Greg Brezina	LB	6-0	226	27	5
51	Duane Benson	LB	6-2	215	28	7
55	Jim Miller	G	6-3	240	24	3
56	Dennis Havig	G	6-2	245	24	2
57	Jeff Van Note	C	6-2	243	27	5
58	Don Hansen	LB	6-2	235	29	7
59	Noel Jenke	LB	6-2	221	26	3
60	Tommy Nobis	LB	6-2	240	29	8
61	Bill Sandeman	T	6-6	252	30	8
	Lonnie Warwick	LB	6-3	238	31	8
64	Andy Maurer	G	6-3	265	24	4
65	Len Gotshalk	T	6-4	244	23	2
66	John Small	DT	6-4	269	26	4
68	Ted Fritsch	C	6-2	239	23	2
69	Mike Lewis	DE	6-4	244	24	3
71	John Zook	DE	6-4	243	25	5
74	Mike Tilleman	DT	6-7	272	29	7
75	George Kunz	T	6-5	257	26	5
77	Rosie Manning	DT	6-5	256	23	2
79	Chuck Walker	DT	6-3	250	32	10
80	Todd Snyder	WR	6-2	192	24	4
81	Wes Chesson	WR	6-2	195	24	3
82	Ken Burrow	WR	6-0	191	25	3
83	Larry Mialik	TE	6-2	226	23	2
86	Jim Mitchell	TE	6-1	234	25	5
87	Claude Humphrey	DE	6-4	252	29	6
88	Glen Condren	DT	6-3	252	31	8

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion Auxiliary has one great purpose, "To contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion".

The Auxiliary's activities are designed to carry out the programs which can best be accomplished by the work of women.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Falcons Prospectus

"In 1973," says Atlanta Falcons Coach Norm Van Brocklin, "this team is not going to go onto the field hoping to win. We're going on the field expecting to win every Sunday."

The Falcon players and coaches feel they have risen above expansion status. Despite the break-even record, the 1972 Falcons did mature in several important areas and Van Brocklin is very close to reaching a goal which he established for the Falcons when he arrived in Atlanta in 1968 -- a quality player at every position.

Van Brocklin and his staff have been busy since the end of the 1972 season completing that task. One of these quality people arrived shortly after the NFL trading season opened in January when the Falcons sent their number one draft choice to Houston for defensive tackle Mike Tilleman, a 6-7, 272-pound mountain of a man who is expected to immediately answer one of the former question marks in the middle of the Atlanta defensive line.

Other question marks remain for the Falcons and additional personnel adjustments could come before the start of the 1973 regular season with spirited competition expected in several areas, including defensive tackle and in the kicking department. The big question mark on our football club is at the quarterback position.

Pat Sullivan will be given a chance to replace the incumbent Bob Berry at quarterback in training camp and in preseason games and that could rank as one of the most interesting areas in training camp.

The combination of Dave Hampton and Art Malone gave the Falcons one of the best running attacks in the conference last season while Jim Mitchell continued to live up to his billing as one of the best tight ends in the business with his pass-catching and running ability and with his devastating blocking.

"We expect our defensive team to be as good as any in the NFL," commented Coach Van Brocklin. "Offensively, in 1973 we need improvement in our passing game other than completion percentages. We need better yardage yield after the catch by our receivers and, stop fumbling."

"We expect to do that and our attitude in 1973 will be one of expecting to win and not just hoping to. Our players must hit the field with the attitude of expecting to win every Sunday."

1972 FACTS

Season's W-L-T	7-7-0
Divisional Standing	2
Divisional W-L-T	3-3-0
Conference W-L-T	6-5-0
Interconference W-L-T	1-2-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	16
NFL Defensive Ranking	7
Average Yardage Differential	+17.4
Points/Points Allowed	269/274
Quarter 1	64/67
Quarter 2	100/46
Quarter 3	62/79
Quarter 4	43/82
Coach	Norm Van Brocklin
Coach's Pro Record	55-89-7

1973 FACTORS

Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.302
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	26-41-3
Divisional Favorite	San Francisco
Coach	Norm Van Brocklin
Coach's Pro Record	55-89-7

TOP DRAFT CHOICES

Greg Marx,DT,	Notre Dame
Tom Gereaine,WR,	N.E. Missouri
Nick Bebout,T,	Wyoming
George Campbell,DB,	Iowa State
Tom Reed,G,	Arkansas

Art Malone doubled as the second leading ground gainer and number one receiver.

GAME THREE—ONE YEAR AGO
Detroit 38 at Chicago 24

THE GAME: The Lions' prideful "bunch of jerks" blew into the Windy City and left middle linebacker/author Richard Butkus wordless . . . The offense was superb, stinging an otherwise stingy Bear defense for 5 TDs and 1 FG . . . QB Greg Landry rebounded from his frustrating game the week previous . . . The offensive line deserved praise for picking up Chicago's many defensive stunts . . . Despite the victory, there was cause for concern over a Detroit defense that couldn't make the Bears hole up . . . Chicago was down only 31-24 with 3:15 left . . . A Mike Lucci interception stopped the Bears' last drive and set up the Lions' final score.

THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Chicago
First downs	21	21
Yards rushing	197	253
Yards passing	115	74
Total yards	312	327
Passes	8-12-0	8-16-2
Punts	1-33	0-0
Fumbles lost	0	1
Yards penalized	0	50

Detroit	7	14	7	10	38
Chicago	0	10	0	14	24

Rushing — Detroit: Landry, 9-87; Owens, 22-78. Chicago; Douglas. 12-97; Harrison, 18-91. Receiving — Detroit: Cotton, 4-61; McCullouch, 1-33; Barnes, 1-17. Chicago: Farmer, 2-30; Harrison, 3-27; Seymour, 1-16. Passing — Detroit: Landry, 8-12-0, 131 yards. Chicago: Douglass, 8-16-2, 89 yards.

GAME FOUR—ONE YEAR AGO
Detroit 26 at Atlanta 23

THE GAME: Thanks to an interference call at the 3 on CB Clarence Ellis covering Ron Jessie in the last minute of play, the Lions were able to squirm from underneath a 20-23 disadvantage . . . Joe Schmidt's men had been ahead up to the last 3:00 when a young, but persistent Falcon team captured a temporary lead with a steady 2nd half comeback . . . QB Greg Landry had another reversal of form this week, killing 3 offensive series with interceptions . . . Fortunately, 1 of the 5 passes he completed was an 82-yard TD pass to Ron Jessie . . . Although concocted in the huddle, this play didn't need an interference penalty to make it work.

THE STATISTICS:	Detroit	Atlanta
First downs	15	15
Yards rushing	180	199
Yards passing	134	79
Total yards	314	278
Passes	5-17-3	10-17-1
Punts	3-47	6-40
Fumbles lost	1	0
Yards penalized	40	88

Detroit	3	10	7	6	26
Atlanta	3	0	7	13	23

Rushing — Detroit: Taylor, 33-80; Owens, 19-77; Landry 5-23. Atlanta: Hampton, 16-85, Malone, 12-77; Profit, 4-19; Berry, 3-10. Receiving — Detroit: Jessie, 3-102; Taylor, 2-40; Atlanta; Hampton, 3-26; Malone, 3-26; Mitchell, 2-40; Burrows, 2-13. Passing — Detroit: Landry, 5-17-3, 142 yards. Atlanta: Berry, 10-17-1, 105

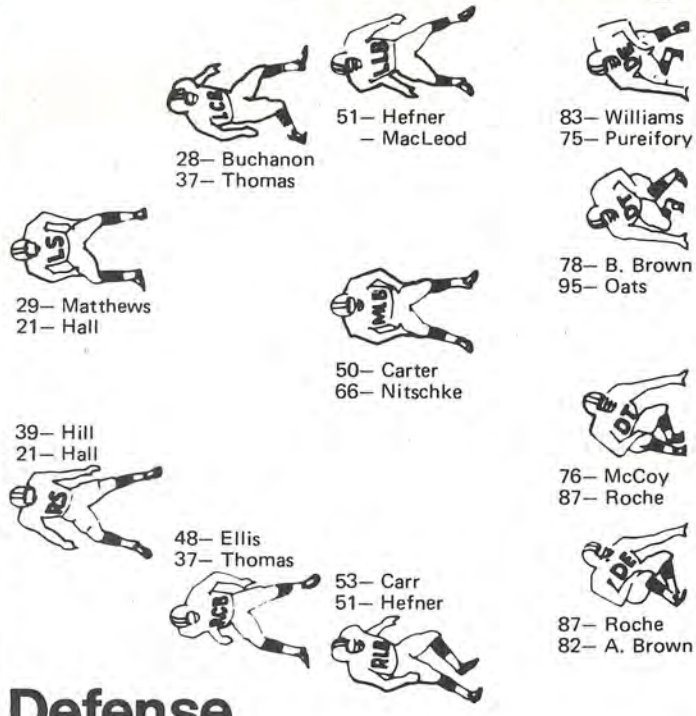
GAMES 2&7

Green Bay

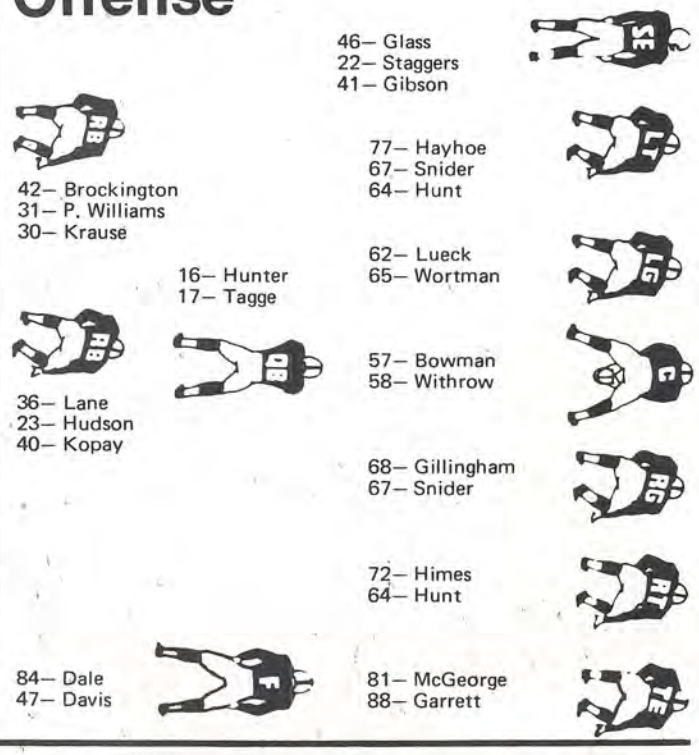
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
	Rocky Wallace	LB	6-1	220	25	3
13	Chester Marcol	K	6-0	190	24	2
16	Scott Hunter	QB	6-2	205	25	3
17	Jerry Tagge	QB	6-2	220	23	2
20	Ron Widby	P	6-4	210	28	6
21	Charles Hall	DB	6-1	195	25	3
22	Jon Staggers	WR	5-11	182	24	4
23	Robert Hudson	RB	5-11	210	25	2
28	Willie Buchanon	DB	6-0	190	23	2
29	Al Matthews	DB	5-11	190	25	4
30	Larry Krause	RB	6-0	208	25	4
31	Perry Williams	RB	6-2	219	26	5
36	MacArthur Lane	RB	6-1	220	30	6
37	Ike Thomas	DB	6-2	193	25	3
39	Jim Hill	DB	6-2	190	26	5
40	Dave Kopay	RB	6-0	218	31	10
41	Paul Gibson	RB	6-2	195	25	2
42	John Brockington	RB	6-1	225	25	3
46	Leland Glass	WR	6-0	185	23	2
47	Dave Davis	WR	6-0	175	25	3
48	Ken Ellis	DB	5-10	190	25	4
50	Jim Carter	LB	6-3	235	25	4
51	Larry Hefner	LB	6-2	215	24	2
53	Fred Carr	LB	6-5	238	27	6
57	Ken Bowman	C	6-3	230	30	10
58	Cal Withrow	C	6-0	240	28	4
62	Bill Lueck	G	6-4	245	27	6
64	Kevin Hunt	T	6-5	260	25	2
65	Keith Wortman	G	6-2	245	23	2
66	Ray Nitschke	LB	6-3	235	36	16
67	Malcolm Snider	G	6-4	251	26	5
68	Gale Gillingham	G	6-3	255	29	8
72	Dick Himes	T	6-4	250	27	6
75	Dave Pureifory	DE	6-1	260	23	2
76	Mike McCoy	DT	6-4	273	24	4
77	Bill Hayhoe	T	6-8	258	27	5
78	Bob Brown	DT	6-5	265	33	8
81	Rich McGeorge	TE	6-4	235	25	4
82	Aaron Brown	DE	6-5	255	29	7
83	Clarence Williams	DE	6-5	255	26	4
84	Carroll Dale	WR	6-2	200	35	14
86	Pete Lammons	TE	6-3	228	29	8
87	Alden Roche	DE	6-4	255	28	4
88	Leonard Garrett	TE	6-3	230	25	3
95	Carelton Oats	DT	6-3	260	30	9

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Children's Home at Otter Lake provides temporary care placement for boys and girls, whose ages range from 13 to 17 years. The home provides basic child care for neglected or pre-delinquent children. "The Home With A Heart" strives to attain the Legion's goal of "A Square Deal For Every Child".

THE HOME WITH A HEART

Packers Prospectus

Packer fans and their bumper stickers had prophesied the return of the Pack since their last Title in 1967, but skeptics were dubious that 1972 would be the year when the Pack would be back.

Dan Devine had promised a more disciplined team and a higher quality of fundamental football, yet the "experts" figured Green Bay for a third or fourth place finish in the NFC Central.

What actually happened, however, was that the Pack did come back, admittedly not all the way, but the League has been served notice that again Green Bay is a team to be reckoned with – for some time to come.

The strongest point on the team is defense. The Packers enjoyed a plus 17 takeaway ratio, making 17 interceptions and recovering 19 fumbles. The loss of All-Pro linebacker, Dave Robinson, and additional age on Ray Nitschke leaves linebacking a very crucial position. Defensive back, Willie Buchanon, proved to be a valuable addition. He grabbed 4 interceptions as did Ellis and Hill, to rank 7th in the NFC. This secondary permitted only 7 TD's passing, tying the 14 game modern Packer mark.

Last year, Chester Marcol set a Packer field goal record, as well as NFC production mark, with 33 in 48 attempts to win the League scoring title with 128 points. Prior to his selection in the second round of the 1972 draft, nine kickers had registered just 33 total field goals in the five years since Don Chandler's retirement.

John Brockington is the first man in the history of the NFL to get over 1,000 yards his first two years in the League and MacArthur Lane was named the Most Valuable Offensive player last season. Both are All-Pros and together they were the most productive running tandem in the NFC.

Inexperience, however, did plague the Pack at quarterback as did the weakness in receiving, but it has been 27 years since a man with as little experience at the vital QB slot registered a Championship.

This year, the holes that require filling are fewer in number than in the five previous years and the available talent is there, in greater depth than 1971.

In short, Green Bay's prospects are the brightest since the Title Days of the 60's.

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	10-4-0
Divisional Standing	1
Divisional W-L-T	5-1-0
Conference W-L-T	8-3-0
Interconference W-L-T	2-1-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	22
NFL Defensive Ranking	2
Average Yardage Differential	+4.7
Points/Points Allowed	304/226
Quarter 1	80/37
Quarter 2	95/61
Quarter 3	63/56
Quarter 4	66/72
Coach	Dan Devine
Coach's Pro Record	14-12-2

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.442
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	34-33-3
Divisional Favorite	Green Bay
Coach	Dan Devine
Coach's Pro Record	14-12-2

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
Barry Smith,WR,	Florida State
Tom MacLeod,LB,	Minnesota
Tom Toner,LB,	Idaho State
John Muller,G,	Iowa
Hise Austin,DB,	Prairie View

A gang of Packer tacklers illustrate why "the Pack is Back."

World Famous Plymouth Cheese

FROM THE HEART OF WISCONSIN'S DAIRYLAND

THE COUNTY FAIR – Sausage and cheese and we're sure it will please. Net weight of contents, 2Lbs., 3 oz. Delivered: $6.50

160 SAUSAGE PAK – Sheboygan county summer sausage at its best. Please specify with or without garlic.
2 Lbs. – Delivered: $5.25
4 Lbs. – Delivered: $8.25

403 THE FAVORITE – The smallest of the cheddar family, the finest of cheddar cheese. 1½ to 2 years old. Approximately 5½ pounds. Delivered: $9.75

403A 3LB. WHEEL – Delivered: $5.95

PLYMOUTH CHEESE COUNTER
P.O.BOX 128, DEPT. SF
PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN 53073

Gentlemen, please enter my order for the following items:

- ☐ THE COUNTY FAIR
- ☐ 160 SAUSAGE PAK ☐ 2 LBS. ☐ 4LBS.
- ☐ 403 THE FAVORITE
- ☐ 403A 3 POUND WHEEL
- ☐ SEND ADDITIONAL LITERATURE

NAME_____
ADDRESS_____
CITY_____STATE____ ZIP_____
A Check Must Accompany Your Order

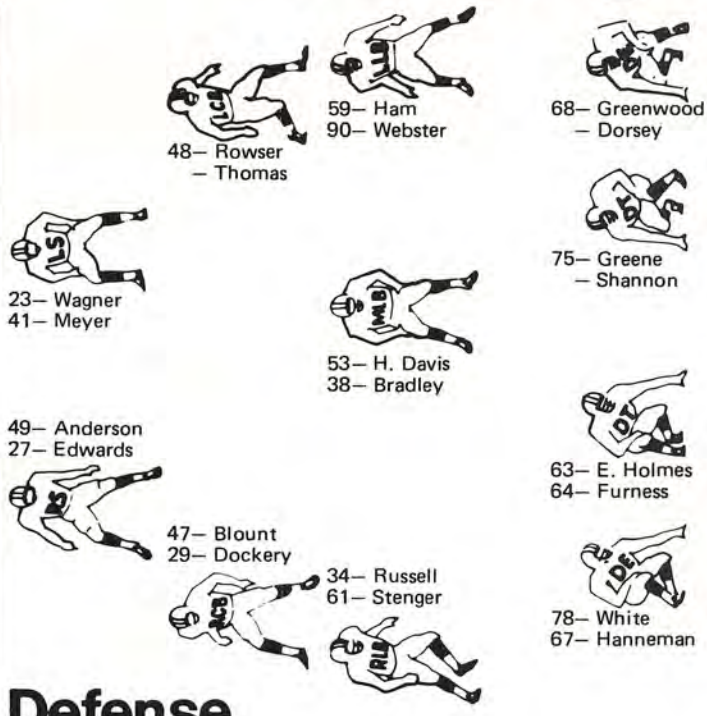
GAME 1

Pittsburgh

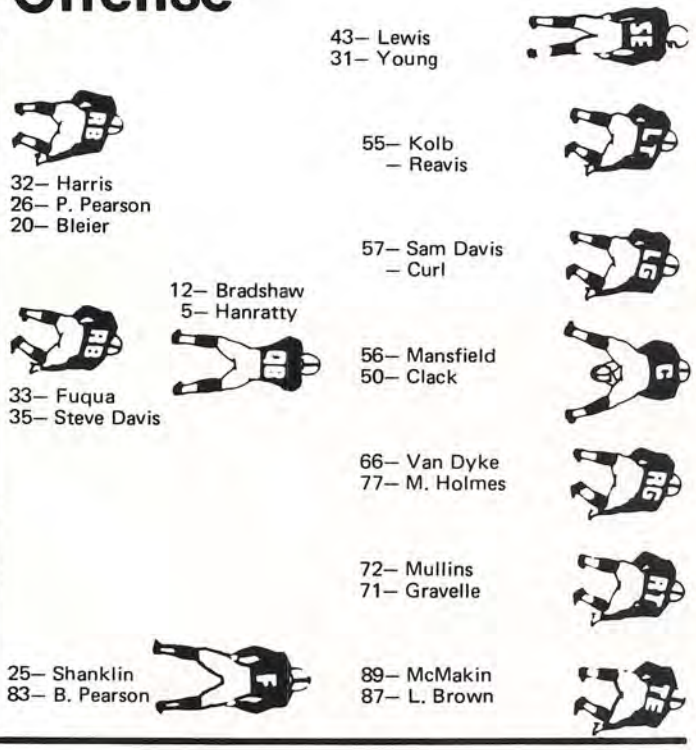
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
5	Terry Hanratty	QB	6-1	210	25	5
10	Roy Gerela	K	5-11	185	25	5
12	Terry Bradshaw	QB	6-3	218	25	4
17	Joe Gilliam	QB	6-2	187	22	2
20	Rocky Bleier	RB	5-11	210	27	5
23	Mike Wagner	DB	6-1	210	24	3
25	Ron Shanklin	WR	6-1	190	25	4
26	Preston Pearson	RB	6-1	205	28	7
27	Glen Edwards	DB	6-1	185	26	3
29	John Dockery	DB	6-0	185	29	6
31	Al Young	WR	6-1	195	24	3
32	Franco Harris	RB	6-2	232	23	2
33	John Fuqua	RB	5-11	205	27	5
34	Andy Russell	LB	6-2	226	32	9
35	Steve Davis	RB	6-1	218	23	2
38	Ed Bradley	LB	6-2	239	23	2
39	Bob Walden	P	6-0	190	35	10
41	Dennis Meyer	DB	5-11	186	23	2
43	Frank Lewis	WR	6-1	196	26	3
44	Lee Calland	DB	6-0	190	31	11
46	Warren Bankston	RB	6-4	235	25	5
47	Mel Blount	DB	6-1	190	25	4
48	John Rowser	DB	6-1	190	29	7
49	Ralph Anderson	DB	6-1	180	23	3
50	Jim Clack	C	6-3	250	24	3
53	Henry Davis	LB	6-3	225	30	6
55	Jon Kolb	T	6-2	262	26	5
56	Ray Mansfield	C	6-3	260	32	11
57	Sam Davis	G	6-1	255	29	7
59	Jack Ham	LB	6-3	225	24	3
61	Brian Stenger	LB	6-4	241	26	5
63	Ernie Holmes	DT	6-5	264	25	2
64	Steve Furness	DT	6-4	255	22	2
66	Bruce Van Dyke	G	6-2	255	29	8
67	Craig Hanneman	DT	6-3	240	24	2
68	L. C. Greenwood	DE	6-6	245	26	5
71	Gordon Gravelle	T	6-5	250	24	2
72	Gerry Mullins	G	6-3	244	24	3
75	Joe Greene	DT	6-4	275	26	5
77	Mel Holmes	T-G	6-3	251	23	3
78	Dwight White	DE	6-4	255	24	3
83	Barry Pearson	WR	5-11	185	23	2
87	Larry Brown	TE	6-4	229	24	3
89	John McMakin	TE	6-3	232	22	2
90	George Webster	LB	6-4	220	27	7

Additions Due To Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

Defense



Offense



IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion offers a number of educational scholarships to deserving young high school graduates. Through the help of financial aid the Legion hopes to encourage young people to enter an educational or training program that will better equip them for a brighter more meaningful future.

Steelers Prospectus

In 1972 the Pittsburgh Steelers did a lot of things well and, as a result, they compiled the second best regular season record in the NFL. Their overall goal in 1973 is to improve in as many areas as possible and to maintain the level of excellence achieved last season.

The trait that most characterized the Steelers last season was consistency. In playing 22 games -- six pre-season, 14 regular season, and two post-season -- the Steelers lost five times. Two of the losses were by four points, one by two, one by three, and one by five.

Another outstanding characteristic is the team's youth. On the 1973 pre-season veteran roster only four players have reached the age of thirty, and one of them is punter Bobby Walden. It is a squad which averages just over 25 years of age and has less than five years pro experience per man. If nothing else, these facts illustrate how young and inexperienced Chuck Noll's team was last season. For this reason alone, it is logical to expect a degree of improvement.

The presence of and great performance by Franco Harris enabled the Steelers to have more of a balanced offense last year. Never before has a first-year player made such an impact or a difference in a Pittsburgh football team. The starting backs – Harris and John Fuqua – accounted for more than 1700 yards on the ground and the Steelers' total rushing yardage was surpassed only by Miami.

Blending perfectly with this overall balance offensively is quarterback Terry Bradshaw who, in addition to having one of the finest passing arms in football, complements the running attack with his own ability to carry the football. He led all AFC quarterbacks in rushing and fell one short of equaling his total touchdown passes of the year before while cutting his interceptions in half.

If you win championships in pro football with your defense, then the Steelers are on the right road. Phenomenal is really the only way to describe the performance of the Pittsburgh defense in 1972.

At this stage of his planning, Noll does not feel his team has a major weakness and does not expect anyone to move in and become a fixture as has been the case with first year players in the previous four years of his term. However, he does think there is great room for improvement in many areas.

1972 FACTS	
Season's W-L-T	11-3-0
Divisional Standing	1
Divisional W-L-T	4-2-0
Conference W-L-T	9-2-0
Interconference W-L-T	2-1-0
NFL Offensive Ranking	13
NFL Defensive Ranking	8
Average Yardage Differential	+32.8
Points/Points Allowed	343/175
Quarter 1	66/28
Quarter 2	103/40
Quarter 3	73/46
Quarter 4	101/61
Coach	Chuck Noll
Coach's Pro Record	23-33-0

1973 FACTORS	
Oppositions 1972 W-L-T Pct.	.571
Team 5 Year W-L-T Record	25-44-1
Divisional Favorite	Pittsburgh
Coach	Chuck Noll
Coach's Pro Record	23-33-0

TOP DRAFT CHOICES	
James Thomas,DB,	Florida State
Ken Phares,DB,	Mississippi State
Roger Bernhardt,G,	Kansas
Gail Clark,LB,	Michigan State
Dave Reavis,DE,	Arkansas

The rookie of the year, Franco Harris, gained over 100 yds. in 5 consecutive games.

GAME ONE—ONE YEAR AGO
New York Giants 16 at Detroit 30

THE GAME: A giant opening victory as the Landry-led offense fairly sizzles . . . QB Greg Landry burns the New Yorkers for 3 TD passes and 8.25 yards average on 4 runs . . . Steve Owens, with help from the line, had his best rushing day ever as a pro to balance the attack . . . However, the surprise hero was 3rd string TE John Hilton picked up from the Redskins 2 weeks previous . . . He got 3 passes, 120 yards, and a big 66 yard TD . . . The defense stopped QB Norm Snead from doing his favorite things . . . The only real damage was done on kickoffs by Rocky Thompson who ran one back 92 yards for a TD and set up a FG with a 48 yard return.

THE STATISTICS:	New York	Detroit
First downs	14	18
Yards rushing	112	192
Yards passing	133	200
Total yards	245	392
Passes	16-25-1	9-17-0
Punts	4-43	3-38
Fumbles lost	1	0
Yards penalized	68	71
New York	0 10 0 6 16	
Detroit	0 13 7 10 30	

Rushing — New York: Evans, 12-57; R. Johnson, 12-54. Detroit: Owens, 20-113; Taylor, 13-46; Landry, 4-33. Receiving — New York: Tucker, 5-69; Evans, 5-38; Johnson, 2-6. Detroit: Hilton, 3-120; Jessie, 2-29; Barners, 2-24; Cotton, 1-32. Passing — New York: Snead, 16-25-1, 137 yards. Detroit: Landry, 9-17-0, 207

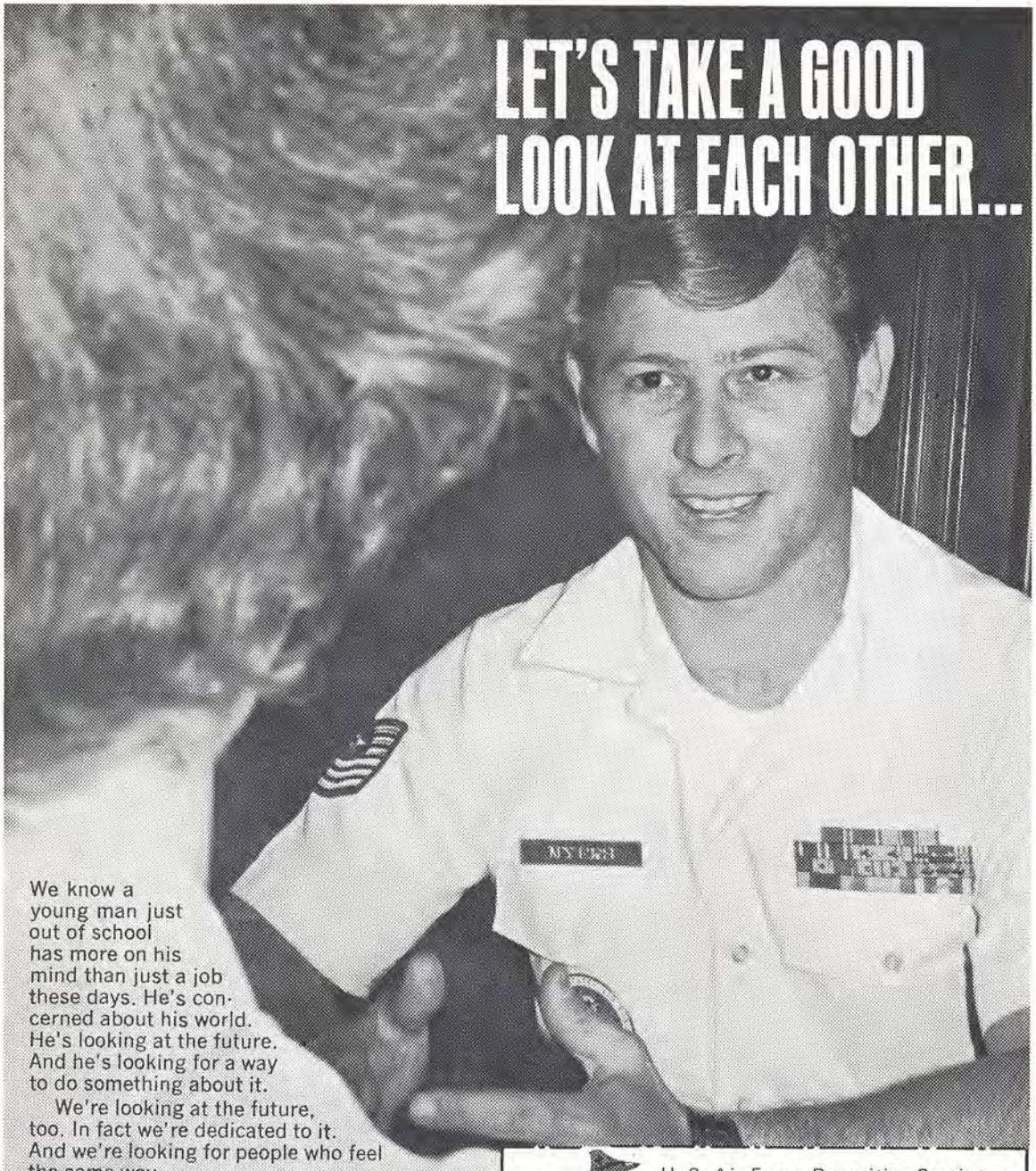
GAME TWO—ONE YEAR AGO
Minnesota 34 at Detroit 10

THE GAME: A disappointing loss by the Lions who know they need to beat THIS team to grab a title . . . But, for the 9th straight time things did not go right . . . QB Greg Landry was intercepted 3 times and sub Bill Munson 1 time . . . However, that could have been due partly to the fact that the Vikes' front four had Detroit's ground game shut off, allowing their secondary to concentrate on pass defense . . . Besides, the law of averages isn't on your side when you put the ball up for grabs 40 times . . . Perhaps the Lions' main problem was shock . . .

THE STATISTICS:	Minnesota	Detroit
First downs	13	16
Yards rushing	130	89
Yards passing	156	124
Total yards	286	213
Passes	8-16-0	17-40-4
Punts	4-41	2-34
Fumbles lost	0	1
Yards penalized	53	10
Minnesota	3 10 17 0 34	
Detroit	3 0 0 7 10	

Rushing — Minnesota: Osborn, 11-61; Reed, 10-23; Jones, 10-21; Tarkenton, 2-19. Detroit: Owens, 16-53; Taylor, 7-33; Landry, 1-3. Receiving — Minnesota: Gilliam, 4-109; Brown, 2-26; Osborn, 2-23. Detroit: Taylor, 6-27; Owens, 4-22; Hilton, 2-13. Passing — Minnesota: Tarkenton, 8-15-0, 158 yards; Lee, 0-1-0, 0 yards. Detroit: Munson, 14-25-1, 89 yards; Landry, 3-15-3, 39

LET'S TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT EACH OTHER...



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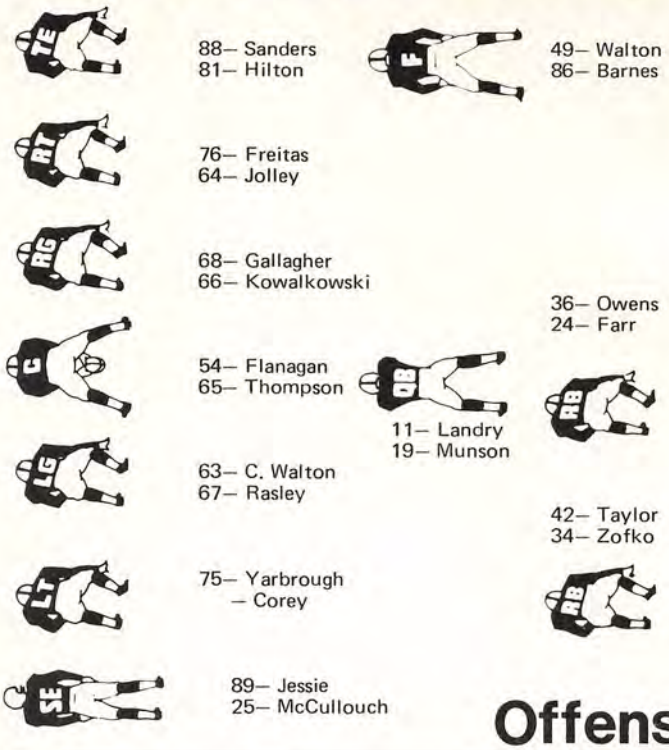
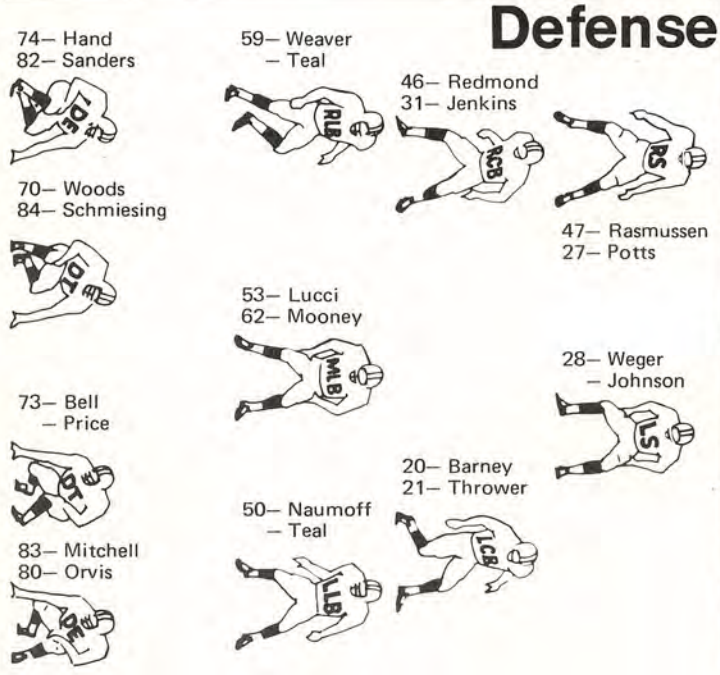
AND WE MIGHT BOTH FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

vs. Detroit Lions





No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Pro
11	Greg Landry	QB	6-4	210	26	6
12	Errol Mann	K	6-0	200	32	6
17	Bill Cappleman	QB	6-3	210	26	2
18	Herman Weaver	P	6-4	210	24	4
19	Bill Munson	QB	6-2	210	32	10
20	Lem Barney	DB	6-0	188	28	7
21	Jim Thrower	QB	6-2	195	25	3
24	Mel Farr	RB	6-2	210	28	7
25	Earl McCullouch	WR	5-11	175	27	6
27	Charlie Potts	DB	6-3	200	28	7
28	Mike Weger	DB	6-2	200	28	7
31	Leon Jenkins	DB	5-11	165	23	2
34	Mickey Zofko	RB	6-3	195	24	3
36	Steve Owens	RB	6-2	215	25	4
40	Nick Eddy	RB	6-1	210	29	5
42	Altie Taylor	RB	5-10	200	26	5
46	Rudy Redmond	DB	6-1	195	26	5
47	Wayne Rasmussen	S	6-2	180	31	10
49	Larry Walton	WR	6-0	180	26	5
50	Paul Naumoff	LB	6-1	215	28	7
53	Mike Lucci	LB	6-2	230	33	12
54	Ed Flanagan	C	6-3	245	29	9
59	Charlie Weaver	LB	6-2	218	24	3
62	Ed Mooney	LB	6-2	225	28	5
63	Chuck Walton	G	6-3	255	32	7
64	Gordon Jolley	T	6-5	230	24	2
65	Dave Thompson	C	6-4	260	24	3
66	Bob Kowalkowski	G	6-3	240	29	8
67	Rocky Rasley	G	6-3	250	26	4
68	Frank Gallagher	G	6-2	245	30	7
70	Larry Woods	DT	6-6	260	24	3
71	Bob Tatarek	DT	6-4	270	27	6
73	Bob Bell	DT	6-4	250	25	3
74	Larry Hand	DE	6-4	250	33	9
75	Jim Yarbrough	T	6-5	265	26	5
76	Rockne Freitas	T	6-6	270	28	6
77	John Gordon	DT	6-6	260	25	2
80	Herb Orvis	DE	6-5	240	27	2
81	John Hilton	TE	6-5	225	31	9
82	Ken Sanders	DE	6-5	225	23	2
83	Jim Mitchell	DE	6-3	245	25	4
84	Joe Schmiesing	DT	6-4	245	28	6
86	Al Barnes	WR	6-1	170	24	3
88	Charlie Sanders	TE	6-4	225	27	6
89	Ron Jessie	WR	6-0	183	25	3

Additions Due to Late Trades, Taxi Call Ups, Waivers, Etc.

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